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Cabinet tries to calm fears on GM food

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

FIVE Cabinet ministers joined forces last night in an unprecedented offensive to meet public concern over genetically modified food and crops.

After a week on the back foot and government confusion, John Prescott and his four Cabinet colleagues most involved in the controversy over so-called Frankenstein foods wrote to every MP in an attempt to calm the outbreak of public and media concern.

They promised that their first responsibility as ministers was to protect consumers and the environment. They insisted that public health was their first priority.

In a letter issued by Downing Street, they gave a clear pledge to ban the cultivation in Britain of any GM crops that are shown to have a damaging impact on the environment. The letter contained no outright change of policy, but it marked a big change of tone in the Government's response after days of accusing the press of exaggerating the issue.

The five-page letter, signed also by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, Stephen Byers, the Trade Secretary, and Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet Office "Enforcer", was graphic evidence that the media and public outcry over the foods has shaken the Government.

The ministers voiced confidence that GM products now on sale were safe, said that no new products would be allowed onto the market until rigorous safety checks had been carried out and promised to oppose approval of foods at European Union level if any British safety assessments raised doubts about a product.

After indications during recent days that ministers are increasingly unlikely to allow the planting of GM crops in the near future, the ministers emphasised that there would be no commercial planting unless the evidence of trials showed there would be no adverse impact.

It said that "limited and monitored" commercial planting "might" take place next year. There was a four-year programme of trials and the case for commercial planting would be considered each year based on available evidence.

The letter was designed both to reassure the public and to underline the scientific case for genetic modification, which could help to produce more nutritious and tastier food and enable the development of crops that benefit the environment because fewer pesticides would be needed to enable them to thrive.

"Throughout history," the ministers said, "scientific advances have raised new fears. Some of these have proved irrational, others have proved well judged. The Government's first priorities are to protect people and the environment. But we must do so in ways that do not deny to our people the healthcare, environmental, economic and other benefits that flow from technological advances."

It added: "That would be an abdication of the responsbility placed on us."

The letter to MPs of all parties was accompanied by a 50-page factfile about the development of GM foods.

The letter came after environmental activists launched new protests. Greenpeace campaigners dumped four tonnes of soya beans outside Downing Street in protest at Tony Blair's support for GM foods.

In Liverpool, police arrested six Greenpeace activists who had entered Seaforth grain

Continued on page 2, col 6

Crop delay, page 12
Leading article, Letters, page 23
Media, page 39



Two Kurdish protesters give themselves up top riot police after leaving the Greek Embassy yesterday

Handcuffs as Kurds end siege

BY ADRIAN LEE AND RICHARD DUCE

THE occupation of the Greek Embassy in London ended peacefully yesterday, after almost 60 hours, when 77 Kurdish demonstrators gave themselves up to police.

There was a last minute hitch over the terms of surrender but, with firemen standing by in case protesters carried out threats to burn themselves, the end came just after 2pm.

Babis Patsouris, an embassy clerk who had been held hostage, was the first to emerge. As the protesters were searched, some handcuffed, and led away, they gave victory signs and chanted: "long live our leader".

Mr Patsouris, who was unharmed, shook hands with one of his captors before being reunited with Greek Embassy staff and his family.

Last night 73 men and four women were being questioned at two police stations where they were held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The end to the siege was delayed for an hour after police refused demands that the occupiers would not face charges. Following their arrest, several hundred supporters outside the embassy said they would not leave.

Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, gave details of the operation, which began in the early hours of Tuesday when the front door of the embassy, in Holland Park, West London, was smashed.

He said that during negotiations no deals were done: "They knew they were going to be arrested and they were arrested." Sir Paul said police had been placed on alert for further Kurdish protests.

"At times it was very tense and dangerous but we were very pleased it came to a conclusion safely and peacefully. We were able to reassure them about their treatment . We have honoured that promise."

The embassy was being checked for damage and weapons. Although police said there was no evidence that the occupiers were armed, they were seen holding what appeared to be fire bombs and it was feared that the embassy may have been doused with petrol.



Babis Patsouris: shook hands with his captor

Yesterday, it became clear from early morning that a breakthrough was near. Speaking by telephone from inside the modern building, the protesters said that they were prepared to leave. They were said to be satisfied that the British Government would seek reassurances about the treatment of Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader, whose capture triggered the occupation. But it is believed that demands by the occupiers that they be allowed to hold a press conference were refused.

Lord Rea and the Labour MP Ann Clwyd, members of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, were brought to the embassy.

Kurdish crisis, pages 14, 15
Leading article, page 23

Police to face 'fairness commission' on race laws

BY RICHARD FORD, STEWART TENDLER AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE POLICE are to be brought within Britain's anti-race laws under plans for reforms to reassure ethnic minorities after the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

A powerful new body to investigate racial, sexual and disability discrimination is being considered by ministers as a way of toughening the Government's response to prejudice. It would also have a remit to tackle ageism and be known as the human rights commission or fairness commission.

As the new organisation will take years to set up, the Cabinet is expected to agree to bring police into a revised version of the 1976 Race Relations Act in an attempt to meet criticisms expected in next week's report by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny on mthe murder of the black teenager.

One plan would be to allow the Commission for Racial Equality to conduct formal investigations into police operations. This change would make it unlawful for the police to discriminate on racial grounds. People would also be allowed to sue chief constables and police authorities for alleged racism.

Yesterday the prospect of sweeping change was welcomed by one of the youngest chief constables in the country who put down a marker to succeed Sir Paul Condon as Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Ian Blair, 45, chief constable of Surrey, gave his colleagues a warning that the police service was facing the most sweeping challenge to outdated working methods and attitudes in 25 years. Setting out an ambitious plan for change needed in the wake of the Lawrence inquiry, Mr Blair delivered an astonishing sidewipe to his colleagues and Sir Paul in particular.

He said the service's response to Sir William's report into the police handling of the Lawrence murder should at the least show "some real humility".

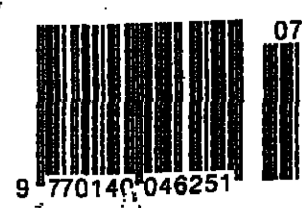
Mr Blair's speech, in which he compared the 43 police forces to a sleeping industrial giant living on its laurels, was seen by observers as an application for the job of Metropolitan Commissioner. He presented himself as the man with the vision and drive to head the service in the early years of the 21st century and as an officer who was "comfortable" with the criminal justice policies pursued by the Government.

But Mr Blair said that although race would be a key issue after the publication of the Macpherson report, there were other challenges facing the service whose working culture was out of date. "This is not about race, solely. It is about the mindset of the organisation."



Ian Blair: compared police to a sleeping giant

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TV Countdown's guilty secret is out at last

BY CAROL MIDGLEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

COUNTDOWN, the genteel quiz programme beloved by Scrabble addicts and crossword fans, was forced to own up to a guilty secret last night.

Celebrity guests who sit in "dictionary corner" of Channel 4's longest running show are not quite as clever as they seem. Thanks to a tiny earpiece they are prompted by experts if they have trouble solving a particular conundrum.

Regular faces like Gyles Brandreth, Stephen Fry and Jo Brand, who are challenged to beat the contestants, have the luxury of being guided by Mark Nyman, the co-producer, a former world Scrabble champion.

The news may come as a surprise to fans of *Countdown* which has become a cult programme after 17 years, largely thanks to its cosy presenters Richard Whiteley and Carol Vorderman. The secret was revealed by *The Times* columnist Matthew Parris when he appeared as a guest on BBC Radio 5's *Late Night Live* and discussed the recent furore over faked TV shows.

Mr Parris admitted that when he had appeared in dictionary corner he had been fitted with an earpiece and helped by a wordsmith backstage. Contestants on *Countdown* select nine letters then have 30 seconds in which to use them to construct the longest word they can. Celebrity guests are later asked if they can top the winning word.

Mr Parris said: "You can pick your own words if you want, but I found the suggestion from control came much faster. I used to wonder why the celebrities were so clever — and now I know."

Yesterday Mr Brandreth, a former Tory MP, who has been with the programme since it started, said: "The earpieces have never been made a secret. We need the help and we are very grateful for it. However Carol doesn't get any prompting at all."

He added: "It seems Matthew, not content with outing Peter Mandelson, is trying to out *Countdown* as well."

Mr Parris commented: "Dear me. These last few months I seem to have been stumbling around saying things which I thought everybody already knew."



"You've been watching Countdown again, haven't you?"

Death certificates get brighter look

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN IMPROVED — and decidedly more cheerful — design for English and Welsh birth and death certificates has been produced by the Office of National Statistics.

Out go the sombre grey/black background of death certificates and the rose tint of birth certificates. Replacing them will be a pastel blue background with a central design incorporating the rose and daffodil emblems of England and Wales.

Register offices will begin to issue the certificates from late spring onwards, but those issued centrally by the Office for National Statistics — usually to replace a lost document — will be in the new design only after existing stocks have been used up.

There have been minor changes to certificates in recent years, but the new look is the first major design since existing background tints were introduced 50 years ago.

The changes will be phased in so that all birth, death and still-birth certificates issued from January 1, 2000 will be in the new design.

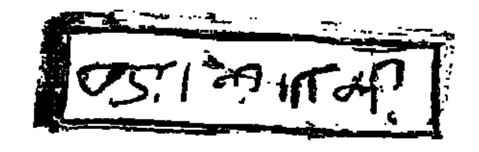
About four million certificates are issued each year, including those for such purposes as the study of genealogy and passport applications.

A government spokesman last night denied that the change was a New Labour ploy to put a more positive spin on even the darkest of occasions such as death.

"Actually, the Stationery Office started thinking about these changes in early 1997 under the last Government. It's just that it has taken rather a long time to sort it all out," he said.

He added that secret design elements would also make the certificates — which will now be issued in a standard A4 size — harder for would-be forgers to counterfeit.

The new certificates have been given a trial run in Bolton, Lancashire.



Their Lordships find erogenous zones in unlikely places

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Maps of the human body have been made, magnifying erogenous zones and telescoping the rest. Our skin surface is charted with area proportionate to the number of nerve endings. The picture is weird: lips, lobes, nipples and fingertips swollen; legs and stomach pitifully shrunk.

Each of us views the world outside in a comparably distorted way. Our map enlarges places where the nerve endings of our attentiveness cluster. Some *Times* readers would have London's West End covering half the map, with Watford near the top. For some Scottish readers Hadrian's Wall would appear near the bottom.

Assemblies, too, offer their maps of the modern world. For the past two days) this sketch has migrated to the Lords. They see things differently there.

Take Wednesday. This featured a Private Notice Question on Gibralter. Ministers (represented by the Baronness Symons) were sticking to the Foreign Office's strikingly half-hearted line, declining to condemn Spanish provocation there. But a rock which, to the Foreign Office, is an embarrassing little dot on the horizon, was huge to their lordships. From the number and agitation of their interventions, Spain was the irritating dot: a huddle of foreigners separating Great Britain from the most enormous rock, teeming with apes and patriots.

That part of the peers' world map that was not occupied by Gibralter seemed to be largely taken up by Otterburn. I had never heard of Otterburn, but this artillery firing range in the Northumberland National Park was as familiar to peers as Piccadilly Circus. One after another, grizzled barons struggled to their feet to denounce proposals that it might be closed. Viscount Slim was incandescent.

Lord Burnham was anxious. Lord Redesdale knew all about it. "My Lords, despite the bangs," protested the normally dry Lord Carver, a retired field marshal, "those areas are extremely suitable for the preservation of wildlife." There was a rumble of assent.

"Does not the Army need this range," spluttered Lord Campbell of Croy, "in the same way that I was able to calibrate my 25-pounders in the Second World War before I took my battery abroad?"

For a 90s generation to whom "taking your battery abroad" might refer to energising the kids' Playstation on a package holiday to Benidorm, the realisation that a firing range in Northumberland looked, to peers, bigger than Spain, may come as a shock. Otterburn is one of their erogenous zones. Barons love being scratched there. And If shooting makes their nerve-ends tingle, so does hunting, fishing, and the countryside.

Yesterday hedgerows (for some of us just the narrow boundaries between fields) ran high, wide and deep through the Lords' imagination. Peers such as Lord Beaumont of Whitley, his beard a hedgerow in itself, spoke with passion on hawthorn and beech. I pictured an England in which (like those ancient maps where monster fish and wind-puffing cherubim elbow humdrum data aside) mere cities are all but obscured by hunts, hedges, grouse moors, cathedrals, village greens — and Otterburn.

The night before, peers had talked for three hours about the Separation of Powers.

Lord Goodhart: "My Lords ... the previous five speakers have all been over the age of 80 and two of them over 90 ... the quality of their speeches is a good reason for not imposing a retiring age on Members of your Lordships' House."

Noble Lords: Hear, hear!

Michael heads for victory in Welsh contest

By Philip Webster and Valerie Elliott

ALUN MICHAEL was last night heading for victory in the divisive battle to be leader of the Welsh Labour Party and become the party's candidate for First Secretary of Wales.



Michael: believed to have won GMB vote

Mr Michael, the Blairite candidate who replaced Ron Davies after his resignation from the Cabinet, was set for a narrow win after securing the crucial vote of one of the biggest unions.

He was understood to have taken the vote of the GMB general union, which represents 6.3 per cent of the three-way electoral college that will determine the outcome of the leadership contest. Rhodri Morgan, his rival, had been hoping that GMB support would give him the edge in the contest. Yesterday he won the backing of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union.

The GMB vote will be declared today and the overall result tomorrow. With both camps refusing publicly to predict the outcome, it appeared that Mr Michael would win the trade unions' and MPs' sections of the college, with Mr Morgan finishing ahead in the members' section.

Mr Michael's campaign has been dogged by accusations that the Labour leadership in London and Wales has had to resort to old-style tactics to overcome the populist Mr Morgan, with union leaderships deciding their votes without consulting their members. However, the GMB is expected to emphasise today that its decision follows consultation with members at branch meetings.

If Mr Michael has won he will make an immediate gesture of reconciliation towards Mr Morgan in the hope that divisions can quickly be buried for the elections to the Welsh assembly on May 6. The contest took another twist last night with confusion over the arrangements for counting ballot papers sent out to 25,000 party members. Kevin Brennan, campaign manager for Mr Morgan, asked the Labour Party's Millbank HQ to allow a scrutineer to witness the count and ensure that ballot papers had been properly received and counted. But last night it was still unclear whether the party hierarchy would accept the request.

The handling of the postal ballot is contracted to Unity Security Balloting, a subsidiary of the Unity Trust Bank. A spokesman at Unity Security declined to reveal details of the count or when and where ballot papers were opened before being counted because of its contract with Labour.

Party sources insisted that the company's system was scrupulously fair and followed strict rules. The count will take place electronically today when ballot papers are scanned into a machine. The process is to take place on machines owned by a pools company in Clerkenwell, London. The result will be declared in Cardiff Bay, home of the Welsh assembly.

MARK LLOYD



Lord Porchester, heir to the Earl of Carnarvon, and Fiona Aitken, the fashion designer, after their wedding at the Savoy Hotel chapel in London, yesterday

IRA arms cache 'put together in ceasefire'

By Martin Fletcher
Chief Ireland Correspondent

DETONATORS found in an IRA arms cache seized in West Belfast on Tuesday were manufactured last year, when the IRA was supposed to be on ceasefire, the Royal Ulster Constabulary said yesterday.

The anouncement raised serious questions about the IRA's intentions and caused Unionist and Conservative politicians to redouble their demands for IRA disarmament.

The detonators were seized along with a loaded armalite rifle, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, four pounds of home-made explosives and eight coffee-jar bombs.

Robert McCartney, the UK Unionist Party leader who opposes the Good Friday peace accord, said that the seizure "highlights the folly of David Trimble even contemplating sitting in an executive with Sinn Fein ministers".

Mr Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, rejected Mr McCartney's demand that his Ulster Unionist Party end all contacts with Sinn Fein, but said that the arms haul was "a matter of very grave concern".

Sinn Fein officials responded angrily, calling the RUC the most discredited police force in Europe and accusing it of "pursuing a political agenda with the intention of wrecking the peace process".

Extremist few, page 13

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tax may be imposed on pesticides

The Government is considering imposing a tax on pesticides in an attempt to reduce environmental damage to the countryside and wildlife.

Patricia Hewitt, the Economic Secretary, said that the Government was exploring the tax system to secure environmental objectives. "Our economic aims must be achieved at the same time as developing social progress, protecting the environment and ensuring the prudent use of natural resources," she told a conference on environmental taxation held by the Institute for Public Policy Research, a left-wing think-tank.

Although the minister said she could not discuss the contents of the Budget on March 9, she made plain that measures to reduce the use of pesticides were high on the Government's agenda.

Its support for genetically modified food crops, which in theory would not require pesticides, is believed to have increased backing for a pesticide tax. Crop delays, page 12

Drugs admission

Patricia McMahon, the wife of the former European showjumping champion Paddy McMahon, admitted her part in a £2 million international cocaine smuggling ring. Isleworth Crown Court was told that she was second in command of a gang that imported the drug from Peru hidden in asparagus. The case continues.

Spirits concern

Young adults are increasingly drinking spirits rather than beer and alcopops, a study of drinking patterns has shown. The report, published by the Office for National Statistics, says that consumption of spirits by those in the 16-to-24 age group rose last year. This may reflect a fashion rather than a long-term trend.

Fayed intervenes

Mohamed Al Fayed made a last-minute request to the French judge investigating the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, to question British Embassy officials in Paris and American security staff. The move will ensure that any trial in connection with the accident will be delayed by many months.

Priest dies

An inner-city priest who was beaten by two men who broke into his Lincoln vicarage has died in hospital. Friends said that Father John Hayes, 46, had lost a long battle against ill health and that last year's attack had also taken its toll. He died in Lincoln County Hospital almost exactly a year after the beating.

Officer's fraud

A policeman who used a Metropolitan Police order document to kit himself out in motorcycle gear has been given a suspended jail sentence by Marylebone magistrates. Glenn Buckett, 31, of Copthorne, West Sussex, has resigned from the force. He was also ordered to pay £35 costs and £643.97 compensation.

GM food protesters arrested on crane

By Russell Jenkins

POLICE made ten arrests yesterday as they reclaimed a crane on the Liverpool dockside occupied by four Greenpeace activists protesting against imports of genetically modified food.

Four protesters climbed onto the crane at 3.40pm with enough equipment and provisions to stay there for several weeks, and unfurled a banner with the words "Ban gene foods". They were hoping to prevent ships unloading modified soya at Seaforth Dock, but police ended their protest just before 7pm.

A convoy of Greenpeace vehicles, including four inflatable dinghies on trailers, was stopped overnight by Merseyside and Cheshire police on the M56 as they headed towards Liverpool. Several activists were questioned and the boats were impounded.

Peter Melchett, Greenpeace's executive director, said yesterday: "Genetically engineered soya is pouring into this country and Greenpeace is doing what Tony Blair ought to be doing — stopping it."

"There is an overwhelming public demand for natural and organic food. People should go to the Liverpool docks and support the people on the crane. This is an opportunity to show the strength of public support for our campaign."

A spokesman for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company said that six people were arrested as they tried to storm Seaforth Dock. Four managed to evade capture and climb the crane superstructure.

A spokesman for Merseyside Police said: "Whilst recognising individual rights of peaceful protest, this action has been taken due to concerns in relation to the flow of shipping in and around the River Mersey as well as the safety of protesters, dock workers and members of the public."

Gene crops delay, page 12

Sun flights keep lateness record

By Joanna Bale

PASSENGERS on charter flights last summer suffered an average delay of 37 minutes, according to figures released yesterday. The largest increase was for Britain's biggest holiday airline, Britannia.

One in five of Britannia's planes was more than an hour late — nearly double its figure for summer 1997. Ian Hamer of the Air Transport Users' Council, which published the figures, said: "Of the large carriers, Air 2000 has recorded a significantly improved performance, but Britannia has slipped badly and we are looking to the carrier to recover its position in the coming year."

Generally, delays to charter flights in and out of main UK airports last summer were about the same as in summer 1997 despite a 7 per cent increase in flights. The council's statistics relate to charter flights from April to October 1998 at Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Luton, Manchester and Newcastle. The average delay was 37.6 minutes compared with 37.5 minutes in summer 1997: 17.25 per cent of flights were more than an hour late, compared with 17.88 per cent in summer 1997.

Flying Colours topped the table, with only 5.33 per cent of its flights more than one hour late and with an average delay of 8.33 minutes. The worst performer was Air Europa with 30.79 per cent of flights more than an hour late and with an average delay of 57.54 minutes.

Air 2000 reduced its average delays from 39.12 minutes in summer 1997 to 27.57 minutes last summer.

CHARTER DELAYS

AIRLINE BY RANK	% more than 1hr late	Ave. delay (mins)
1 Flying Colours Airlines Ltd	5.33	8.33
2 Pegasus Airlines	6.18	11.90
3 British Airways	7.45	19.44
4 Eurocypria Airlines Ltd	9.20	25.78
5 Onur Air	11.13	26.05
6 Airworld Aviation Ltd	13.28	28.39
7 Monarch Airlines	14.15	32.07
8 Air 2000	14.17	27.57
9 European Air Charter	14.97	38.75
10 Transaero	16.52	44.77
11 British Midland	17.36	36.74
12 Futura Airlines	17.74	37.44
13 Britannia Airways	19.50	44.03
14 Airtours Intl. Airways Ltd	20.54	44.46
15 Caledonian Airways	21.31	47.29
16 Sabre Airways Ltd	21.86	49.13
17 Leisure International	22.27	48.89
18 British World Airlines Ltd	24.73	47.98
19 Spanair	25.18	53.11
20 Viva	29.91	65.70

Source: Air Transport Users' Council

Cabinet tries to calm fears

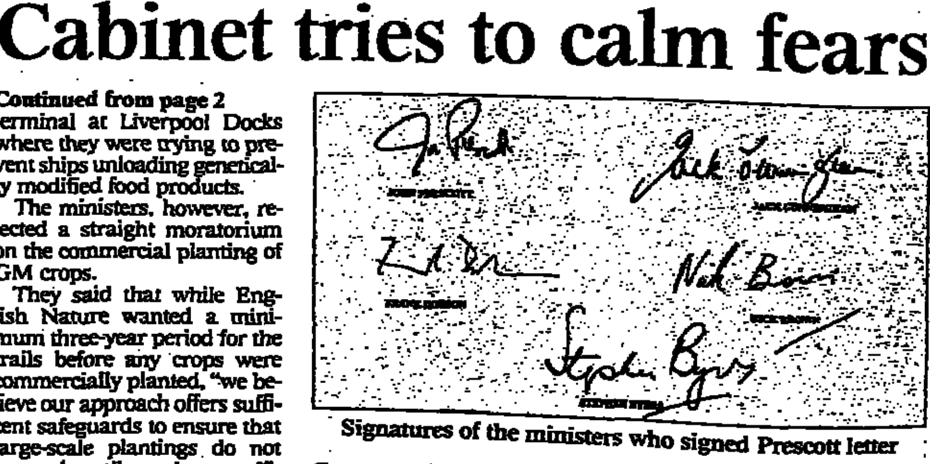
Continued from page 2
terminal at Liverpool Docks where they were trying to prevent ships unloading genetically modified food products.

The ministers, however, rejected a straight moratorium on the commercial planting of GM crops.

They said that while English Nature wanted a minimum three-year period for the trails before any crops were commercially planted, "we believe our approach offers sufficient safeguards to ensure that large-scale plantings do not proceed until we have sufficient evidence that the particular crop does not harm the environment."

Their letter then adds: "The Government recognises that there is public concern about genetic modification."

The letter ends: "It is a fast moving science; we accept we not not have all the answers."



Signatures of the ministers who signed Prescott letter

Crop delay, page 12
Leading article, Letters, p 23
Media, page 23

Move to the countryside, judge tells victim who 'fears blacks'

By Susie Steiner

AN ASIAN assault victim who developed a fear of black people was advised by a judge yesterday to move to the remote countryside to avoid meeting people of Afro-Caribbean origin.

After Mr Justice Rougier had awarded Mohibur Rahman £575,000 in damages, he suggested that he move to the *Welsh Hills* or return to his native Bangladesh to combat the "intense and wholly irrational dread" of black people which kept him imprisoned in his South London home.

The High Court judge based the award on Mr Rahman's pain and suffering from the assault, and for care and loss of earnings. But he refused any award in relation to the victim's phobia of black people.

"I've been painted a picture of a man cowering in his home, afraid to venture forth in fear of meeting black people. It's time for a little common sense to come into play," Judge Rougier told the court. "Of all the places he should not live, I suggest that South London tops the list.

"It is a multiracial city but it is not possible to go for a five-minute walk or enter a couple of shops without seeing people of Afro-Caribbean origin."

Judge Rougier said that there were still areas of the countryside which did not *have substantial black* communities, suggesting North Wales or Scotland to Mr Rahman.

"It's not as though it will be *tearing him* from his roots, as they are in Bangladesh, and his enjoyment of London, if it can so be called, is confined to the four walls of his uncle's flat.

"I think it would be wholly unrealistic to expect Mr Rahman not to move. Remaining in London would amount to failure to take reasonable steps to ameliorate his pitiful condition. He owes it to his wife, who so recently swapped her bridal robes for a nurse's apron.

"*He owes it to the next harm*less West Indian he may assault in the street. But most of all, he owes it to himself."

Outside court, Mr Rah*man's solicitor said that his cli*ent had found the judge's words "deeply offensive".

"Mr Rahman has no intention of going to North Wales," said Sadiq Khan. "It's unrealistic to expect him to uproot himself away from his family and community and live in rural England.

"Mr Rahman is British and finds it deeply offensive that it's suggested be go back to Bangladesh as a way of escaping black people."

Mr Rahman, 30, descended into psychotic paranoia four years ago after a vicious assault at the Central London burger bar where he worked as manager. Described as *bright and sociable* before the attack, he was set upon by two suspected drug dealers in March 1995. They splashed boiling oil on his legs and stamped on his face. As a result, Mr Rahman slumped into a severe depressive disorder which left him suicidal. His trauma was compounded when an operation on his right eye went wrong.

The judge said that Mr Rahman had been subjected to threats in the days leading up to the trial of one of his assailants and lived in dread of reprisals.

He had a tendency to misinterpret innocent actions and recently, while driving, tried to run down a black man walking along the pavement. He was unemployable, the court was told, and stayed in his flat "in alternating states of listless*ness and terror*".

Mr Rahman was awarded more than £7,000 from his employers, Arearose Ltd, for his physical injuries. The company, which contested the claim, was ordered to pay a further £175,000 for loss of earnings and care.

University College London Hospitals NHS Trust, which admitted liability in relation to Mr Rahman's eye operation, was ordered to pay more than £57,000 in general damages and £330,000 for loss of earnings and care..

Mr Rahman was denied an additional £200,000 claimed by his solicitors to cope with his phobia of black people. *Judge Rougier said:* "It's another instance of where the constant need to increase damages has outstripped both reasonableness and reality."



A covered up Mohibur Rahman arriving at the High Court in London yesterday

CONTROVERSIAL LINE IN JUDICIAL ADVICE

This is not the first foray into controversy for Sir Richard Rougier, one of Britain's most senior judges. The 67-year-old member of the Garrick Club shocked a courtroom last year when he advised a 13-year-old alleged rape victim how to mix a Pimms. The teenager had just told a jury of her ordeal, describing how she got drunk on neat Pimms, when Judge Rougier embarked on his advice: "Take this from an experienced Pimms drinker like me. If you want to drink, wait until you're older. *But if you can't wait, dilute* the drink with one part Pimms to six parts of lemonade at least," he told the schoolgirl.

In 1996 he made *the* headlines when he condemned "legal bureaucrats" who required 46 different documents before prosecuting a violent youth. The judge accused the Crown Prosecution Service of "paper lust".

After Jonathan Jones was convicted of killing his fiancée's parents, Harry and Megan Tooze, in South Wales, Mr Justice Rougier, the trial judge, wrote to the Home Secretary saying he was surprised by the jury's decision. Mr Jones was subsequently freed.

More recently, the judge has presided over several prominent cases including the dispute between the arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi and the Ritz Casino over a small matter of a £10 million gambling bill.

Father-in-law goes to court to win back couple's cash

By Paul Wilkinson

A DOCTOR has successfully sued his son and daughter-in-law, whose arranged marriage broke down, for the return of £29,600 he provided them with to set up home.

Ruby Arefin, who is divorcing her husband, Shamsul, and lives apart from him in a two-bedroomed flat in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, claimed the money was a gift, not a loan, and suggested the action at Barnsley County Court was a ploy to recover her share of the matrimonial home.

After the hearing, at which Judge John Swanson decided that the couple should jointly *repay the cash, Mrs Arefin* said her father-in-law, Dr Mohammed Haq, "is just doing this to get back at me. I never want to see him again."

Dr Haq, 61, from Ravenfield, near Rotherham, told the court: "I had an excellent relationship with her before it broke down. I was very anxious about her becoming pregnant. I was looking forward to having a grandchild." He said they fell out when she changed her dress and "became more modern". He said: "I didn't *like the way she went out on* her own and didn't wear a headscarf. She started associating with criminals of another community, alcoholics, drug *addicts and muggers. This is* not good for us."

When asked if the court action was a family ploy to get back his daughter-in-law's equity in the matrimonial home, he said: "We are not cheating people."

Mrs Arefin did not meet her husband, a dentist, until three weeks before their wedding 11 years ago. For the first six months she could not consummate the marriage. She said Dr Haq, a GP in Conisbrough, South Yorkshire, tried to influence their relationship and was desperate for her to have a male grandchild. She said she had several intimate conversations with him and they fell out after he talked to her about having an internal operation to improve her sex life.

Mrs Arefin, who was born in London of Bangladeshi parents and has a six-year-old son, Najib, with her husband, told the court: "I found it strange he was asking these personal questions. I hardly knew him. I have never had such discussions with my family." She said Dr Haq flaunted his wealth and criticised her choice of Pakistani friends. "Dr Haq liked to control what I did and who I saw."

Outside court she said: "The *court's decision means I will* end up with nothing when I get divorced. My share of the house when it is sold will go to my father-in-law. He's taken everything from me apart from my son. It's ironic because he wanted a grandson so much."

Mr Arefin, who practises in Maltby, near Rotherham, still lives in the house.

Finding for Dr Haq, Judge Swanson said he had not found it easy to reach a decision. "I do not think Mrs Are*fin is a dishonest person.* She has always thought the money was a gift although it was intended as a loan by Dr Haq."



Ruby Arefin: claimed the money was a gift

GQ Editor loses job over praise for 'stylish' Nazi

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

JAMES BROWN, the magazine editor who created *Loaded* and celebrated laddishness, resigned as Editor of *GQ* last night after claims that he had glorified the Nazis.

Nicholas Coleridge, managing director of Condé Nast, cited "philosophical differences" between him and Brown as the reason for his abrupt departure.

It came days after some members of the Jewish community expressed disgust that *GQ* had named Field Marshal Rommel, who led the Nazi campaign in North Africa, in a list of the sharpest men of the 20th century. It ranked him alongside Sammy Davis Junior as someone who remained "stylish in the face of adversity".

Rabbi Barry Marcus of London's Central Synagogue said it was "offensive and disgraceful that so-called style magazines should use the Holocaust and Nazi symbols as icons".

Brown, 33, achieved stunning success with *Loaded*. Within three years it was selling nearly half a million copies in a men's market that had not previously existed.

A character of extremes, Brown spent many months addicted to alcohol and cocaine. But when he was asked to rescue the ailing *Gentleman's Quarterly* magazine in 1997, he became teetotal. However, the magazine did not put on the sales Condé Nast wanted. The row over the Nazis was the last straw, insiders said.



Brown: first achieved success with *Loaded*

Media, page 39

A downfall from gold card to scratchcard

A MAN spent more than £30,000 on lottery scratchcards after losing his job but never won a prize larger than £5. (Simon de Bruxelles writes). David Godfrey used his gold charge card to get the cash to buy hundreds of scratchcards a day in the hope of repaying his debts.

Instead Godfrey, 38, found himself owing American Express £33,667. At Exeter Crown Court he was told that he faced jail after he admitted obtaining services by deception. He applied for the credit card *while working as a* £26,000-a-year salesman in 1997, but claimed that he owned his parents' home and earned in excess of £35,000.

The account was maintained properly for more than a year until he lost his job. Then, each day, he would go to petrol stations and shops six or seven times, buy sweets, then ask for up to £50 cashback on the charge card which he spent on scratchcards. He has agreed a repayment plan, but it was estimated that it would take him more than 70 years to repay the total. Sentencing was adjourned.

Hilary du Pré accused of betrayal over cash gift

By Simon de Bruxelles
South West Correspondent

HILARY DU PRÉ, whose complex relationship with her cellist sister Jacqueline has been made into an Oscar-nominated film, was accused yesterday of betrayal by a family friend who gave up her life savings to save her from bankruptcy.

In May 1997, Myrtle Grange-Bennett gave £30,000 to Hilary and her husband, Kiffer Finzi, after being told they faced eviction from their Hampshire home. Then *last year* Mrs Grange-Bennett, the 86-year-old widow of Jacqueline du Pré's godfather Norman, herself fell on hard times.

Unable to pay for repairs to her bungalow she turned to the couple for help. She *knew that Hilary and her brother Piers* had since written the best-selling memoir, *A Genius in the Family*, and that it been made into an acclaimed film.

She also knew that she had no legal claim on the money, but hoped that at least part of it would be returned in the spirit with which it was given. But despite the success of *Hilary and Jackie*, Hilary says she is unable to help. In a letter to Mrs Grange-Bennett she said: "The marvellous film will not, despite what you may have heard, generate money for Piers or me. You offered your gift of money 'with no strings attached'. It is so sad that the gift you gave with with such big-heartedness, such generosity of spirit, has turned into what appears to be such bitterness."

Mrs Grange-Bennett began to have second thoughts about her gift when she learnt that the couple had kept a holiday home in Provence instead of selling it to pay their debts. Her own home is in urgent need of roof repairs and she has been advised by her GP to employ a live-in carer or move into a residential home. All that Hilary could offer was the assistance of her brother in approaching the Department of Social Security for help.



Myrtle Grange-Bennett: needs live-in carer and repairs to home

Hilary and Piers' portrait of Jacqueline, who died of multiple sclerosis at the age of 42 in 1987, was condemned by friends of the cellist, including Lord Menuhin, Julian Lloyd Webber, Itzhak Perlman and Mstislav Rostropovich. Even Hilary's own daughter, Clare Finzi, 33, accused her mother of "gross misrepresentation".

*Jacqueline was depicted as a self-ob*sessed sexual predator who persuaded Hilary to let her have an affair with her husband. The three lived together for a while in the Hampshire farmhouse.

Mrs Grange-Bennett, who has known the du Pré family since 1936, said: "Hilary called me on the telephone and her voice sounded strange. She told me she was going to be evicted from her home after another failed business venture. I couldn't bear the thought of them being thrown out on the street so I gave them my money. At the time I really believed they would do the same for me.

"Since I gave them the money I have fallen on hard times myself and I have been left high and dry. I feel so betrayed."

Kiffer Finzi said last night that if he had the money he would "repay it like a shot". His house in France, bought for £350 30 years ago, was 'unsaleable' and his health food business was sold after an arson attack. Piers du Pré, speaking for his sister, denied that he or Hilary had earned a large amount of money from either the book or the film. *Referring to the money* from Mrs Grange-Bennett, Mr du Pré added: "It was not a loan, it was a gift."

Estranged wife took overdose in church

By Russell Jenkins
North West Correspondent

THE wife of a deputy headmaster killed herself after she discovered that her estranged husband was seeing another woman, an inquest was told yesterday.

Helen Booth, 42, a devoutly religious mother of two teenagers, *took an overdose of pain*killers as she sat in a Methodist church in the village of Tissington in the Peak District.

Her body was discovered two days later, kneeling as if in prayer. She had left a note in her car parked near by and had written "Peace at last" in the church visitors' book.

The inquest in Glossop was told that Mrs Booth, who suffered from depression, had recently learnt that her husband David, 43, deputy headmaster at Neville Road School in Bramhall, had been seeing another woman.

Mr Booth told the inquest that he had moved out of the house before Christmas,and *his wife had known that he* was spending time with another woman. Verdict: suicide.

Father and son survive 3 nights in snow hole

Pair recovering from frostbite after chance rescue by other climbers, reports Shirley English

A FATHER and his teenage son were recovering from severe frostbite and hypothermia yesterday after spending three days and nights sheltering in a tiny snow hole against blizzards in the Cairngorm mountains.

John Rawson, 44, from Manchester, and his son David, 16, had not been reported missing, and were rescued on Wednesday night only after their makeshift shelter was found by a party of climbers on a survival course. They were then flown to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, where their hands and feet were bound with special bags to help thaw them out.

Mr Rawson, an experienced climber, had wanted to introduce his son to one of Britain's last wilderness areas, but on Sunday night, they suddenly found themselves trapped 4000ft above sea level on the plateau at Coire Domhain by 122mph winds and blizzards that reduced visibility to zero.

Speaking from hospital yesterday, the Rawsons said that they had huddled together for warmth and ate snow to survive as the days passed. Although they tried to keep their spirits up by telling jokes, at times they thought they might die. With the wind-chill factor driving temperatures to -21C, their hands became so numb that they could not open their rucksacks to get food.

It was only by chance that they were found on Wednesday night at around 7pm by a group of climbers on a two-day survival course with the National Outdoor Training Centre at Glenmore Lodge. The group called for help, and Mr Rawson and his son were flown to safety by an RAF helicopter.

Yesterday Mr Rawson, who has also climbed in the Rocky Mountains and the French Alps, said: "I knew we were in a precarious situation. It was daunting sitting there watching the hours go by. I did consider trying to make my way down the mountain in the teeth of the blizzard, but luckily I decided to sit it out. My fingers were useless and numb, so it was very frustrating."

David said that he had faith in his father, but was very scared at times: "Dad was not showing much fear. I did have confidence in him, but there were times that I questioned him about just how serious a position we were in. I now realise how close to death we came."

The pair had set off on Sunday morning intending to stay out for a few days. They parked at the skiers' car park at Coire Cas and left a route map in the car.

They then walked up the Lairig Ghru, the pass that runs across the Cairngorms, and dug in overnight. But as the weather deteriorated, they decided to try to make it to the Shelter Stone near Loch Avon.

Mr Rawson said: "The snow was not deep enough to build a proper snow hole and we could not even get our kit inside it because it was only big enough for the two of us."



PETER JOLLY

David Rawson and his father, John, huddled together and ate snow to survive a blizzard on a Scottish plateau

They were forced to use the rucksacks to block the entrance. "We just ate snow because I knew we needed as much liquid as we could get. When the weather temporarily cleared a bit late on Wednesday we could see the lights of Aviemore and that inspired us to keep going. By that time I knew we were in a very precarious situation."

Mr Rawson said that he wanted to thank the party that found them, as well as the RAF crew that picked them up. He said, however, that he expected to be in trouble when he returned home to his wife, Cynthia, 42, and their daughter, Emma, 22.

Coire Domhain, the plateau on which they sheltered, lies between the 4,084ft summit of Cairngorm and that of 4,295ft Ben Macdui, Britain's second-highest mountain. Tim Walker, of Glenmore Lodge, said: "The conditions earlier this week on the summit plateau were as bad as can be experienced anywhere in the world."

Rescued man loses his hands and feet

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

A CLIMBER who survived a five-day ordeal in the French Alps in which his friend died has had his hands and feet amputated.

Jamie Andrew, 29, suffered frostbite after being trapped near the summit of a mountain at Chamonix. His friend Jamie Fisher froze to death.

Mr Andrew's father, Howard, who has been at his hospital bedside since the accident last month, said: "My son has regrettably had to have both feet and both hands amputated. Surgeons tried desperately to save one hand but were unable to do so."

The two climbers, who shared a flat in Edinburgh, had been attempting to scale Les Droites near Mont Blanc when they became stuck on an icy ridge. Mr Andrew said later: "The one thing that kept us going was our friendship. On several occasions we had to keep each other going. Sadly, only I made it."

Mr Andrew is expected to return to his parents' home in Glasgow next week.

□ A 24-year-old woman died and another skier was injured after an avalanche in the Jura range in eastern France.

The French authorities yesterday lifted a five-day ban on off-piste skiing in the French Alps.

'Keep out drunks to cut cell deaths'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE Police Complaints Authority has called for reform of the drinking laws so that drunks can be taken to care centres rather than going into police cells.

The suggestion comes in a report today on deaths in custody. The authority argues that police cells are the wrong place to hold drunks and that arresting them for being drunk and disorderly is an expensive waste of time.

It says that the Government should consider scrapping the offence of being drunk and disorderly, so that drunks can instead be sent to care centres to recover or to detoxification centres run by the health service and social services.

Drunks are often arrested for their own safety rather than because they are a risk to the public, the report says, and only need a place to sleep off the effects of alcohol. Each such arrest costs £200, it says. Drugs or alcohol accounted for 79 of the 195 deaths in custody between 1994-95 and 1997-98. Twenty-nine were a consequence of medical reasons and 25 of suicide.

The report found that the number of deaths in custody continues to rise. Between 1970 and 1979 there was 274 deaths, an average of 27 a year. Since 1990 there has been an average of 54 a year.

The report promises new guidelines soon to end the "agonising" delay suffered by families trying to find out how relatives died in police custody. The authority said it hoped for a new spirit of openness.

The report says that there is concern about the use of restraints by officers during arrests, and it has repeatedly warned forces about neckholds and handcuffing offenders behind their backs while they are on the ground.

The authority lists 16 recommendations on the handling of prisoners, such as more specialist training and better monitoring, which it says could cut the number of deaths each year by two thirds.

Stop ignoring wrongdoers, says Straw

The Home Secretary has intervened as a good citizen several times, reports **Richard Ford**

JACK STRAW urged people yesterday to join his crusade to end tolerance of anti-social and criminal behaviour, telling of how he himself had challenged a boy who was spitting at people at a railway station.

The Home Secretary disclosed that he had intervened on several occasions, tackling a burglar, a mugger, a man involved in an assault, and, just a fortnight ago, confronting an 11-year-old who was spitting on passengers from a parapet.

But Mr Straw, who regularly goes jogging, warned people not to put themselves in danger by "having a go", especially if they were not as fit as he is. He said that members of the public should instead perhaps speak to wrongdoers and added that older women on housing estates were often particularly likely to confront youngsters involved in anti-social behaviour. "I am not prepared to tell people to be a have-a-go hero," he said. "I am fit and active. It is about having a word with people."

The Home Secretary, who has intervened in incidents near his home in South London and in his Blackburn constituency, said that when it was safe to do so people should speak to youngsters doing wrong. He added, however, that people "should not do foolhardy things".

Addressing a conference in London organised by the Social Market Foundation, Mr Straw said that everyone had a duty to help reduce crime. On four occasions he had intervened as a good citizen to detain a criminal or confront anti-social behaviour. In 1982 — when the future Home Secretary was an Opposition spokesman — he was at Oval Underground station when he saw a boy having his wallet stolen. He pursued the mugger and handed him over to the authorities.

On another occasion Mr Straw was at a constituency surgery when he heard the sound of breaking glass at a trade-union club. He went to investigate and collided with the thief making his getaway. "I chased after him and caught at the junction of Nab Lane. I got hold of him and took him to the police station," Mr Straw said.

In May 1993 Mr Straw saw a mugger attacking a 65-year-old woman in South London. He helped another man tackle the offender, wrestling him to the ground and tying his legs to stop him struggling until police arrived and arrested him.

The latest incident occurred 13 days ago when Mr Straw — accompanied at some distance by his armed police protection officer — was in his constituency. "I was waiting at the station and saw a lad spitting over a parapet onto a pedestrian walkway, hitting some people with his spit." Mr Straw approached the youngster and asked him whether he had considered what it would feel like if he was spat upon while walking along. He said the lad, who did not recognise him, had at first talked back at him, had then calmed down.

A community worker in Glasgow said that Mr Straw was being simplistic. Bob Holman said: "It is the glib remark of a wealthy politician. Action needs to be taken collectively within a neighbourhood and by people who are in a good relation with the youngsters who cause trouble."

But church leaders welcomed the call for an end to the "walk on by" society. The Methodist Church said the Home Secretary was taking the example of the Good Samaritan seriously.



SIMON WALKER

Jack Straw yesterday. He recently reprimanded a boy who was spitting at people

Britain divided into doers and thinkers

By Alex O'Connell

THE people of Britain are divided into those who would leap, like Clark Kent, into action at the scene of a crime, and those who would think twice before doing something they might regret.

The philosopher Roger Scruton said he had no option but to get stuck in when he saw three 12-year-old children vandalising the carriage of a London Underground train. He eventually stopped them. "I just went up and shouted."

However, Mr Scruton said that the law was making it more difficult for onlookers to get involved in a dispute. "The natural way is to go up and give the children a slap, but you would end up in jail and they know that."

Paul Killik, a senior partner of the southwest London stockbroking firm Killik & Co agreed. "I wouldn't always help because a quick reaction could find you contravening a law or rule."

Rabbi Julia Neuberger said that her instinct was to get involved, but she realised that this was not always wise. "Where we used to live there was a street brawl and two rather large men much younger and bigger than me were laying into each other. I said, 'Don't you think it might be a good idea to stop that?' And they did."

Rabbi Neuberger said that another time she was in a bank during a smash and grab raid. "It was clear that that the only sensible thing was to not get involved."

Martin Bell, MP for Tatton, said he was a natural interventionist. "I have more experience of war crimes than post office robberies. In the former you just don't walk on by."

Sylvia Morris, head teacher of Cathedral Primary School in southeast London, said fear of reprisals often overrode her moral instinct. "There is a saying around here that 'Bermondsey boys don't dob'. In a school context, if you go and intervene you will get a brick through the window."



Children at play on a South London estate yesterday

Clean-up is put to test in Straw poll

By Adam Sherwin

WHERE better to test Jack Straw's "get involved" plea than on his own patch? A tour of the Home Secretary's daily haunts, from the Home Office to his South London home, uncovered the kind of antisocial behaviour that often sends Mr Straw into collar-feeling action. Can one man, armed only with a copy of Mr Straw's speech, clean up the streets?

First stop, the Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate. A family of four in matching shellsuits walks past. The youngest child tosses a chocolate wrapper over his shoulder. Time to step in. Shouldn't you put that into a bin? "Pick it up, son," orders the apologetic dad. Son obeys — a moral victory. Emboldened, I head towards Pimlico, where Mr Straw educated his son and was chairman of the governors at the comprehensive. Two known troublemakers are observed acting suspiciously on College Green. They are Clare Short and Caroline Aherne, aka Mrs Merton, who are about to launch a campaign to tackle blindness. Ms Aherne sniffs into a tissue. "I have got a terrible cold," she complains. Perhaps sensing my fear that the tissue is about to litter the Green, Ms Aherne wisely tucks it into a pocket.

Time to head south of the river towards Kennington, Jack Straw's manor. Four children, aged about 8, are playing in a park adjoining a Lambeth estate. It appears that spitting is taking place. "I spit," claims one child proudly. Jack Straw says you shouldn't. The boy invokes *Match of the Day*. "Footballers have to spit. They do it all the time." Does anyone tell him not to spit? "My mum, but I don't listen to her."

A police van arrives and two officers emerge to arrest a young black male. Can I assist? "No, please leave this to us," says an officer as he puts handcuffs on the man. The police get no support from the residents. "That boy is a harmless schizophrenic," says one woman. "There is no crime here. The police are racist," insists a man with four children. As he ushers them home, he unleashes a volley of spit.

St Agnes Place, which borders Kennington Park, is a crime troublespot. There has been a murder and a triple shooting in recent months. The road is covered in glass from a recently vandalised Fiat Uno. Two Rastafarian men approach from the house opposite as I inspect the damage. Could they have intervened to prevent the crime? "You shouldn't be here. This is private property," one suggests. He requests my business card and, when he has satisfied himself, allows me to leave.

Police sign in Kennington

A police sign in Spanish requests information on the murder of a Colombian man. "There is drug dealing and shooting on this estate but I wouldn't say anything to the police," a middle-aged black woman says.

Ena, a spritely 85-year-old, is carrying her shopping home. She is something of a "have-a-go granny". "I told some kids to stop causing trouble on the Tube recently — and they did," she says proudly. "When I was younger the worst you saw was fisticuffs. Now the kids carry knives."

Ena is fortunate to be a resident on the safest road in the country. "I live on the same street as Jack Straw. There is a policeman posted permanently outside his front door."

'Hospital misled us on baby treatment'

Peter Foster and **Ian Murray** reports on parents who deny giving consent

SIX mothers who say that they unwittingly allowed their children to became guinea-pigs in an experimental treatment for ventilating premature babies are threatening to sue an NHS trust hospital.

The claims follow the announcement of a government inquiry into trials of a new ventilator system at the North Staffordshire Hospital in Stoke-on-Trent in 1989-93.

Of 122 babies who were treated, 43 died or suffered brain damage. The hospital said yesterday that all the parents of babies involved in the trials of the continuous negative extrathoracic pressure (CNEP) ventilators had signed consent forms for the treatment and had been fully informed about the trial through an information leaflet.

But several parents have come forward accusing the hospital of "fooling" them into taking part in the tests by obtaining consent without explaining the risks. The campaign for the families is being led by Carl and Debbie Henshall, whose daughter Sophie was born prematurely at the North Staffordshire Hospital in December 1992.

She was placed on a CNEP ventilator and was later diagnosed as suffering from brain damage and cerebral palsy. Yesterday, despite the assurances of the hospital, Mrs and Mrs Henshall maintained they had not been told the treatment was experimental or part of a clinical trial.

"I didn't find out until my daughter was four years old that she was part of an experiment and I am extremely angry about that," Mrs Henshall, a former care worker, said at her home in Newcastle-under-Lyme yesterday.

Mrs Henshall, who is taking legal advice on compensation, added that staff at the hospital had highlighted the potential benefits of the CNEP system without saying that it was on trial. She said that in February 1992, when she had another premature baby, Stacey, her husband Carl was pushed into giving consent for the CNEP ventilator. "They were giving him a horror story about how the traditional ventilator could cause narrowing of the windpipe — collapsed lung and all sorts of other things. They said that this was a safer procedure which was proven to be effective. A clipboard was pushed under his nose. We didn't even read what he was signing — he just put his trust in the doctors."

The inquiry into the trials of the ventilators, which has been ordered by Baroness Hayman, the Health Minister, is expected to explore how consent was obtained from parents such as the Henshalls in the minutes after the birth of their very sick children.

Sharon Bradley, 30, also claimed yesterday that she had been "fooled" into taking part in the trials against her will. She gave birth to her premature son Stephen at the hospital in May 1993. Now aged five, he suffers from autism, severe learning difficulties and poor communication skills.

Another couple, Lisa and Paul Brerton, said they felt they had been "hoodwinked" into accepting the treatment when their son Joshua was born at the hospital in September 1991. Weighing 2lb 8oz, Joshua died from a brain haemorrhage a few hours after being moved to the CNEP system after he failed to respond to other treatments.

David Southall, 49, the consultant paediatrician at the hospital who led the trial using the new ventilators on premature babies, has spent two decades studying cot deaths, first at the Heart and Lung Institute at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London and, since 1992, as Professor of Paediatrics at Keele University.

At the Royal Brompton he published a highly acclaimed study proving that there was no link between cot death and apnoea, the tendency of babies to stop breathing for a short time. While there he began controversial work to discover why some mothers in hospital repeatedly reported their healthy babies had breathing problems.

With police help he set up video surveillance which clearly showed that some mothers were deliberately suffocating their babies in order to attract attention, a symptom of Munchausen's Disease by proxy.

HOW THE VENTILATOR WORKS

The ventilator works on the same principle as the iron lung: by creating a vacuum outside the chest to eliminate air pressure and make it easier for the baby to breathe. The ventilator itself is a plastic box, similar in appearance to an incubator, which makes an airtight seal around the baby's chest. The conventional "positive pressure" method uses a tube pushed down the baby's throat to pump air into its lungs. This method effectively does the breathing for the child. According to the hospital, the success and failure rates for the ventilator are not different from those for positive pressure, so ventilator trials on premature babies were abandoned in 1993. Ventilators are not believed to be in use now on premature babies anywhere else in Britain.

PAUL BARKER



John and Pauline Pickett after yesterday's ruling. They say they will have to remortgage their home to pay legal bills

Judge rules against couple who 'lost vasectomy gamble'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A FATHER of three girls who had two more daughters after having two vasectomies lost his claim yesterday for compensation from the hospital where he had the operations.

John Pickett and his wife Pauline, 41, lost the High Court case even though the judge ruled that doctors were negligent in their advice about the efficacy of the surgery.

The couple, who did not receive legal aid, face a bill of tens of thousands of pounds for the action. Mr Pickett, 47, said they were "stunned and disappointed" by the decision.

The court, sitting in Leeds, was told that Mr Pickett, a computer engineer, was believed to be the first man in the world to have two "late-failure" vasectomies.

The couple, who also have an adopted son, had sued St James's University Hospital in Leeds, claiming that they were not warned of the risk of a second operation failing. They told the three-day hearing that if they had known that Mrs Pickett, now 41, could still become pregnant they would have used additional contraception. Judge John Altman said that although he agreed that the hospital had been in breach of its duty by not warning them of possible failure, the couple had taken a gamble and lost.

"The reality is they knew of the risks," he said. "It was a human decision that, in effect, it couldn't happen to them twice. There was a negligent act, but I also find that that negligent act made no difference whatsoever to their state of mind."

Mrs Pickett, a clinical psychologist, said they would have to remortgage their home in Roundhay, Leeds, to pay the legal bills. "We have six children to get through education — our savings have gone. This will be a burden for years." The Picketts' daughters are aged 14, 12, 11, 7 and 4. Their son is 9.

The court was told that Mr Pickett had a vasectomy in May 1988 after the birth of their third daughter because his wife did not want another pregnancy and they were in the process of adopting their son. Early tests showed the vasectomy had been successful, but in March 1991 Mrs Pickett found that she was pregnant and had a daughter.

Mr Pickett had a second vasectomy in February 1992. The couple said that, although they were warned of the 3,000-to-one risks of a failed vasectomy the first time, they were not told that there was the same chance of the vasectomy failing again. Two years later Mrs Pickett became pregnant again and gave birth to their fifth daughter.

Outside court, Mr Pickett said: "I regret bringing the court case because it has left us in debt, but I feel we have made our point. We have explained to the children that we were not suing because we didn't love them."

CJD drug quest stepped up

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

RESEARCH on drugs that might prevent the development of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is to be stepped up after an expert government committee called for them to be given high priority.

Experiments on rats have shown that pentosan polysulphate, a drug developed to treat cystitis, can delay the development of the disease. However, it does not work unless it is given before clinical symptoms appear.

The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee accepts that the drug, or similar ones, might be effective at preventing new variant CJD — the variety believed to be caused by infected beef — but that at present its widespread use could not be justified.

Professor Sir John Pattison, chairman of the committee, says that there are too many uncertainties. "We believe that further research needs to be done, both into this drug and others. If an efficacious compound was found, then its use might be justified."

Volcano islanders 'risk lung disease'

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

PEOPLE exposed to dust from the Montserrat volcano may be at long-term risk of developing the miners' disease silicosis, according to a team of British scientists.

Ash from the Soufriere Hills volcano, which has been erupting since 1995, contains high levels of cristobalite, says a report in *Science*.

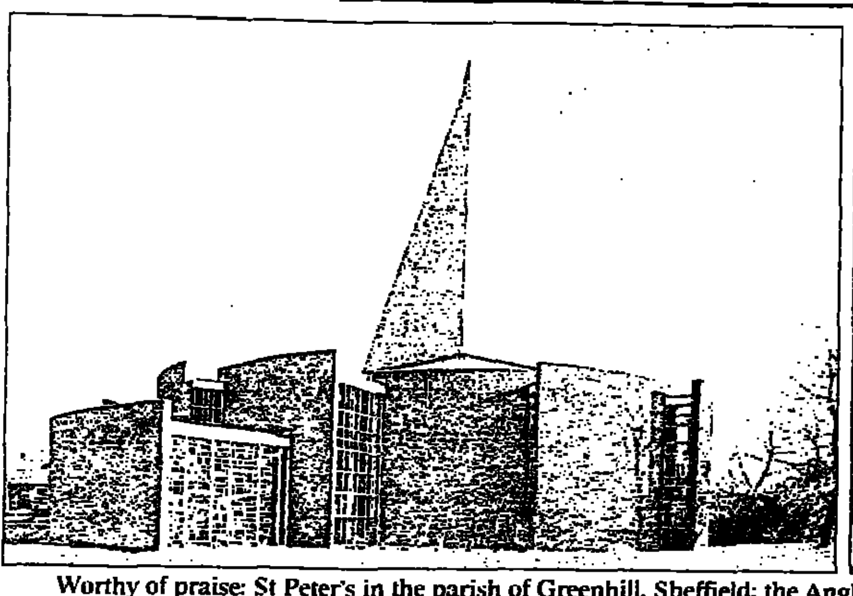
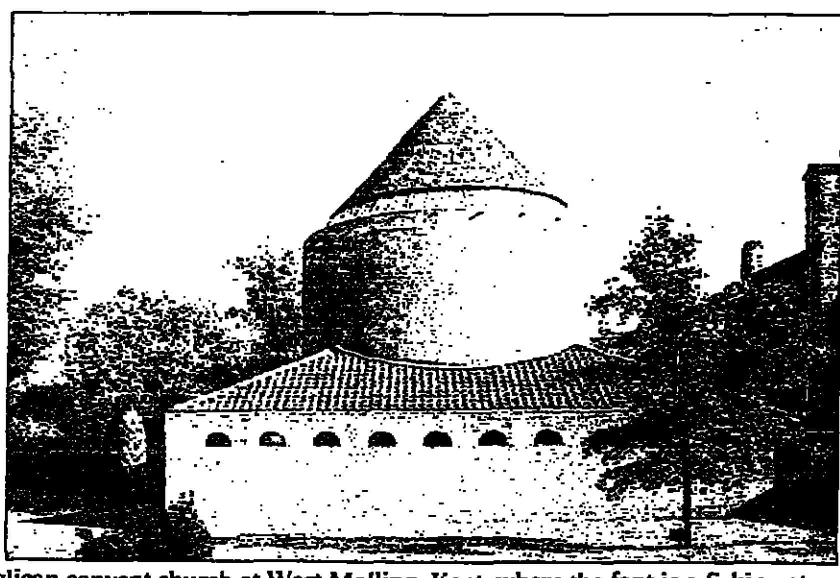
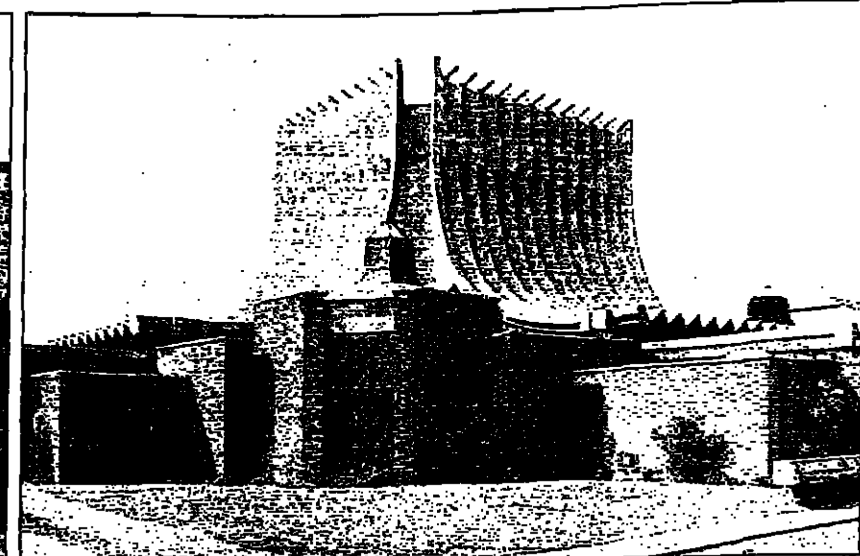
Small particles less than 10 thousandths of a centimetre across — and therefore small enough to penetrate the smallest air passages in the lungs — contain between 10 and 24 per cent silica, which is much higher than in the ash examined after other volcanic eruptions.

When inhaled over long periods of time, christobalite can cause silicosis — a thickening and scarring of the lung tissues which prevents the lungs providing enough oxygen to the blood.

The team, led by Dr Peter Baxter of the University of Cambridge, says that dust levels on the Caribbean island are worst wherever there is human activity: in school playgrounds, car parks, busy roads, supermarkets, and inside houses when they are being swept.

There is "a potential health threat from long-term exposure" to the ash, the team says, although it is too soon to observe any cases yet. The hazard is much greater during long-term eruptions such as Soufriere Hills, where ash is falling for many months or years.



Worthy of praise: St Peter's in the parish of Greenhill. Sheffield: the Anglican convent church at West Malling. Kent. where the font is a firkin vat; and Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic church in Birmingham

Modern church buildings make the grade

Creations in concrete and steel are now recognised as outstanding architecture, writes **Ruth Gledhill**

A CONCRETE convent church and a parish church with stainless steel fittings are among modern buildings that have been listed as architectural gems.

The Culture Department yesterday announced Grade II status for them. West Malling Abbey, an Anglican Benedictine convent in Kent. has a church rebuilt in 1966 with concrete block walls. reinforced concrete beams and nuns' stalls made of blockboard. The church. which sits between buildings of medieval ragstone. is lit by hanging glass spheres. The font is a firkin vat set in concrete.

Among its admirers is *Concrete Quarterly*, which referred to a "skilful use of modern materials" linked to 11th century buildings "without any apparent discordant note". The abbey was founded in 1090 by Gundulf. Bishop of Rochester. and the church incorporates a Grade I medieval west front and transept.

The building is one of three 1960s churches that were recommended for Grade II listing by English Heritage. Another is St Peter's in Greenhill. Sheffield. which includes a Communion rail of stainless steel and wood. and a stainless steel cross suspended over a grey marble altar.

Also listed is the Roman Catholic church of Our Lady Help of Christians in Tile Cross, Birmingham, built in 1967 by Richard Gilbert Scott, a scion of the architectural dynasty founded in the Victorian era by Sir George Gilbert Scott. designer of St Pancras Station and the Foreign Office. Peter Smith. listings inspector for English Heritage. admitted that some people might not consider all the churches to be beautiful. "They are not as ugly as some of the postwar buildings we have looked at," he said.

"If you accept that we list buildings of any sort. then it is very hard to know why we would not list modern ones as well as old ones. They are the finest pieces of design, and every effort must be made to protect them."

Other buildings considered attractive now might not be thought so in the future, he said. "In the 1960s, Victorian buildings such as St Pancras Station were considered very ugly. Now we think of them as great architecture. There are already some people who think of modern, 1960s buildings as very beautiful. It's a matter of taste."

The Rev Lawrence Jenkins. the vicar of St Peter's. admitted having been surprised to discover last year that his church had been nominated. "It is a remarkable new building," he said. "It is also very attractive, more so from the inside than the outside. It has a numinous quality about it."



Detective inspector charged with theft

By Paul Wilkinson

A SENIOR detective who briefed the Prime Minister on "zero tolerance" policing was last night charged with theft from his own station.

Detective Inspector Russ Daglish, a police officer for 20 years, showed Tony Blair around Middlesbrough police station the day before the general election in 1997.

Mr Daglish. 39. and Detective Constable Brendon Whitehead, 34, who also met the Blair party, are accused of the theft of items from the station's stolen property store. Mr Daglish has also been charged with two counts of handling stolen goods. It is alleged that two central heating boilers, recovered as stolen property, were removed from the station days before Mr Blair's visit. One was allegedly fitted at Mr Daglish's home, a 17th-century cottage in Egglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, that he shares with his partner, Sally Ann Knowles, a lawyer with the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Whitehead had been suspended since soon after fellow officers began investigating the case in December 1997. The officers have been bailed to appear before magistrates next month.

Balloon crew have to hang around

By Helen Rumbelow

THE British round-the-world balloon attempt was proceeding rather slowly yesterday, as Andy Elson and Colin Prescot drifted at a speed not much more than that of the Moroccan children running delightedly along below them.

Mr Elson, 45, and Mr Prescot, 48, were meandering south at 10mph and 16,000ft, using the west coast of Africa as a "waiting room" for a few days before they can catch the right winds. Were they to ascend now they would be surfing a jetstream that would take them straight into China, which has forbidden entry to British-registered balloons. By this morning they expect to have passed the Sahara and to have covered 750 of their projected 18,000 miles.

Mr Elson, from Somerset, used the time to fix a leaking hatch on the *Cable and Wireless* balloon, which he designed and built. His last attempt was in the *Breitling Orbiter*, which ran out of fuel while waiting for permission to fly over China.

"The first 24 hours are critical and we have had a good flight so far," Mr Elson said. "We're relaxed and enjoying the splendid African views."

School builders rewarded with tribal honours


Out of Africa: left to right, Mark Orchard, named Ngumbad in Swahili, with Reg Daniels, Dave Rayner, Andy Difford and Chris Fisher

Volunteers who helped Kenyan village now go by Swahili names, reports Simon de Bruxelles

FIVE builders from Somerset have been made elders of an East African tribe after spending their holiday putting up a classroom in a remote village.

Mark Orchard and his team worked for two weeks without pay to complete the primary school in Kenya. Their reward was to be given Swahili names and appointed elders of the million-strong Giriama tribe at a ceremony performed in traditional costume in front of 5,000 people.

Mr Orchard, 32, is no longer known as Guv'nor back in Weston-super-Mare: he is now Ngumbad, or the Hero. Andy Difford, the bricklayer, has become Kadenge, the Quick One; Dave Rayner, the decorator, is Nguma, the Smiler; and Chris Fisher, the plasterer, is Chadi, the One of Many Works. Their veteran colleague, Reg Daniels, 66, could call himself Tsawekadzonagao — the Wise Elder — except that few people can pronounce it. Mr Orchard was also presented with a ceremonial wand carved with an elephant and two lions, which gives him the power to vote on tribal issues at elders' meetings.

After his return home yesterday, he said: "It was an incredible honour and very humbling. We were told this is the first time white men or foreigners have been made elders." The ceremony was carried out by the village medicine man in Swahili. "It was very emotional and we all had lumps in our throats," Mr Orchard said. "A couple of the lads were close to tears and they are big burly builders. Afterwards, nobody called us our English names. Waiters, taxi drivers, teachers and schoolchildren all knew us by our Swahili names."

Mr Orchard first learnt of the plight of the school in the poverty-stricken village of Watamu when he was on holiday in Kenya last year. Villagers had spent ten years scrapping together enough money to pay for building materials for the classroom. At that rate it was going to take them six more years to raise enough to pay a local labourer £1 a day to construct it.

Mr Orchard, who normally charges £60 a day, offered to do the job for nothing and recruited four volunteers from his firm, Clayton Construction, to help. He persuaded his builders' merchant to sponsor the trip and negotiated cheap fares with an airline.

"I got back to England and asked if anyone would be interested in doing two weeks unpaid work in Kenya. They all jumped at it and within three hours we had talked the airline into giving us flights at cost price and persuaded some of our suppliers to pay for the fares."

The team worked from 5am to 8pm each day to finish the job in two weeks. They were watched by hundreds of curious onlookers, fascinated by the sight of white men doing manual labour. "They had never seen white people working. White people had always told them to work," Mr Orchard said. "Each day more and more people would come to watch; some days there would be 2,000 there.

"We had to work with coral blocks, which were nothing like any stone we had worked with before. There was no water or electricity and one of the lads passed out with sunstroke. The working conditions were difficult and we are knackered, but it was incredibly satisfying doing something to help."

Gang murder informer fails to halt TV film



BY PETER GLEESON

A DOCUMENTARY on a gangland triple execution is due to be broadcast next month after a judge yesterday rejected an informer's claim that the programme could help bounty hunters to track him down.

Mr Justice Morland dismissed an injunction aimed at stopping the screening of *Inside Story: Supergrass*, which focuses on the so-called Essex Range Rover murders and is scheduled for March 2.

The injunction was brought by the "supergrass", Darren Nicholls, 33, who claims he has a £500,000 bounty on his head after giving evidence against fellow gang members. He was concerned that interviews he gave to the BBC about the 1995 murders might help gangland executioners to track him down.

Mr Justice Morland, at the High Court, said trailers for the programme and newspaper reports about it could already have been seen by Nicholls's enemies. "I have reached the clear conclusion that there would be no significant extra risk to the plaintiff by the broadcast."

Essex police supported Nicholls, arguing that his appearance would further jeopardise his own and his family's safety. They said that they had not taken part in the documentary, adding that people in witness protection programmes should not draw extra attention to themselves.

Nicholls' evidence to the Old Bailey was crucial in convicting Michael Steele and Jack Whomes, jailed for life for the execution of rival drug dealers Pat Tate, 37, Tony Tucker, 38, and Craig Rolfe, 26.

He drove the getaway car after Steele, 55, and Whomes, 37, lured their three rivals to an isolated field near Basildon, Essex, after promising them a share in a cocaine drop. When the three men arrived in a Range Rover they were blasted to death with a shotgun. For his damning evidence, Nicholls did not go to prison. He now lives under a new identity and gets welfare benefits of £48 a week.

Nicholls's lawyers argued that a locality in the film might be recognised, giving hitmen a better idea of his new address. The BBC argued that footage had been filmed "many miles from his new home".

Time to lay down the law on judges' dual roles



Good chaps know how to behave sensibly, especially if they are judges. That was the gist of much of a debate in the Lords on Wednesday about the separation of powers — the triple role of the Lord Chancellor as a member of Cabinet, presiding officer of the Lords and head of the judiciary, and the double role of the law lords as members of the senior court and legislators.

This overlap was defended on the typically British grounds that it works and is rooted in the monarchical constitution and the medieval High Court of Parliament. But too many speakers failed to recognise how far the old conventions are being stretched to breaking point.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, the Liberal Democrat lawyer who initiated the debate, argued that the roles of the Lord Chancellor and the other law lords have changed greatly because of the Human Rights Act, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland devolution and the reform of Parliament. Senior judges will increasingly have to rule on highly sensitive political issues, and adjudicate between Westminster and the devolved bodies. The fuss over Lord Hoffman and the Pinochet case is a foretaste of much greater public scrutiny.

Yet the law lords are also legislators. The convention that they do not become involved in contentious issues has increasingly been breached as they have spoken and moved amendments on various criminal justice Bills. Two years ago, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, now the senior law lord, sat as a member of the committee hearing an appeal against a decision by Michael Howard, then Home Secretary, before the court adjourned so the judge could support an opposition amendment to Mr Howard's Bill that session.

The triple roles of the Lord Chancellor are also anomalous. Lord Irvine of Lairg is unusual in co-ordinating the constitutional reform programme,as well as heading the judiciary and occasionally sitting as a law lord. The legal basis for this may be in doubt. The European Court of Human Rights will shortly decide whether to uphold the opinion of the European Commission of Human Rights in McGonnell's case that the Bailiff of Guernsey's presiding over both court and legislature, while being head of its administration, was incompatible with the requisite appearance of independence and impartiality of a court of law. Lord Lester said this could directly affect the Lord Chancellor's ability to sit judicially on matters of public policy.

Lord Lester and his fellow Lib Dem lawyer Lord Goodhart argued for a much clearer separation of roles. Lord Goodhart made a strong case for the Lord Chancellor not sitting judicially at all and questioned whether serving, as opposed to retired, law lords could remain legislators. Other speakers argued that the Lord Chancellor and other law lords know how, and when, to exercise self-restraint. But this took insufficient account of the impact of constitutional changes, welcome or not.

Lord Irvine saw the Lord Chancellor as "a critical cusp in the separation of powers", personally protecting the judiciary from executive interference. But we are moving to a more formal system. As Lord Lester said, "trust me" is no longer enough: we need "criteria and principles".

STUART CONWAY





John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, took to a narrowboat yesterday to announce an extra £24 million for inland waterways to promote canals as alternative transport

Darling pledges to publish yearly poverty audit

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent, and Jason Allardyce

ALISTAIR DARLING yesterday promised to publish an annual poverty audit, but declined to specify who should be officially classified as poor.

The Social Security Secretary said that the welfare system in its current form was a major contributor to the nation's poverty. "The system has become part of the problem — encouraging dependency by passively paying out benefit. Encouraging people to feel that the best they can expect is a lifetime on benefit," he told workers at a jobcentre in Edinburgh.

The way out of poverty, Mr Darling said, was to encourage more people off benefits and into work and to improve educational standards. In the last 20 years, although spending on social security had risen by 90 per cent, poverty and inequality had also increased.

The Social Security Secretary emphasised that there was no question of compelling the disabled or lone parents to take jobs under the recently announced welfare reform proposals. But Mr Darling said the Government was making "a radical break from the past" by tackling the causes of poverty. "I make no apology whatsoever for our approach."

He added: "We promised to cut the bills of social and economic failure and that means preventing the causes of that failure. We are changing the approach with a new culture and a new way of working."

While campaigners welcomed the audit, they were highly critical of Mr Darling's emphasis on paid employment as a solution to poverty.

Martin Barnes, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said that to suggest that work could lift everyone out of poverty was "a cruel myth". "Paid work is not always an option for all — people with disabilities, lone parents and carers face many obstacles to employment, even if there are jobs available."

Sue Middleton, of Loughborough University, an expert in childhood poverty, said: "Publishing an annual poverty audit is a major step forward, but it needs to measure poverty in as many of its dimensions as possible. Saying that there is no measure of poverty is a bit of a cop-out." Ms Middleton's own research has shown that that income support would cover just over half of what is spent on a child aged under 11.

DSS officials refused to be drawn yesterday on where the poverty line should be drawn. A spokeswoman said that the annual audit would focus on the numbers of people living in households where the entire family income came to less than half the national average household income, which is currently £255 a week after housing costs and tax.

Nearly 12 million people, roughly 24 per cent of the population, fall into this category.

The Government is acutely aware that if it is to succeed in cutting the £98 billion social security bill, it must reduce this figure. The decision to publish an annual audit of its progress is seen as a signal of its willingness to be judged on this front.

The initiative follows the publication last year of a report by an independent inquiry led by Sir Donald Acheson, the former Chief Medical Officer, which found that the poor can expect to live five years less than the rich.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that the gap between the rich and poor, which had shrunk slightly in the early 1990s, had started to widen again in the middle of the decade.

Mr Darling, whose first audit is expected in the summer, will also monitor the effectiveness of the New Deal and how tackling literacy and truancy can help people get a job and a decent wage.

Surge in live kidney donations saves 68 extra lives

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

THE number of live kidney donors in Britain grew by an unprecedented 38 per cent last year. The unexpected increase enabled 241 patients to be given a kidney from a living donor, compared with 173 the year before.

About 15 per cent of kidney transplants in Britain are now provided by living donors, although the level is only half that in Scandinavia and the United States.

Sir Peter Morris, who chaired a recent Royal College of Surgeons of England working party on organ transplantation, said: "We have not carried out any publicity campaign for living donors and the main reason I can think of for the sudden increase is that the public have at last become aware that live donation is possible.

"There has also been a change of attitude by a number of surgeons in this country who were against the idea in the past."

Sir Peter, who is Nuffield Professor of Surgery at Oxford University, said he hoped that donations from live donors in Britain would eventually provide at least 25 per cent of the kidneys needed.

The shortage of organs means that kidney patients usually have to spend many months on dialysis, waiting for a transplant.

Those with blood group A wait an average of ten months, those with blood group O wait 14 months and those with blood group B for 16 months. Most living donors are parents who want to spare their child a long and traumatic period of dialysis.

The operation to remove the kidney takes about two hours and a further three hours is needed to transplant it into the recipient.

Donor and recipient are usually well enough to leave hospital within a fortnight and the donor is generally able to resume a normal life soon afterwards. "The risks are very low for the donor, although it is a major operation," Sir Peter said.

"In about 2 per cent of cases there can be serious complications, such as haemorrhaging, infection or deep-vein thrombosis. Worldwide there is said to be a 0.03 per cent risk of death, although I know of no case in Britain where a donor has died."

Organs donated from living donors are always better than those taken from someone who has died because they are undamaged, he said. Even kidneys exchanged between a husband and wife who are physically unmatched work as well as, or better than, a matched organ taken from a dead person.

The increase in live donors was reported as *The Lancet* published a report of the world's first successful joint kidney and liver transplant from a living donor.

The operation to give a 53-year-old man the kidney and right liver lobe from his 26-year-old son was carried out in São Paulo, Brazil. The son was discharged from hospital within ten days and recovered fully. The father was discharged after 18 days and was soon able to start part-time work.

Although delighted with the outcome of the operation, Wagner Marujo, who led the transplant team at the Israelita Albert Einstein Hospital, gave a warning that the ethical issues of the limits of living organ donation are far from clear.

The operation raises many questions about what should be regarded as an acceptable risk to a donor, he says, and the operation could be open to criticism. "These procedures should only be attempted as a last remedy by teams with extensive experience," he said.

"However, what seems extreme today may become an ordinary therapeutic tool tomorrow."



Katsuki Yuzawa and two other college students get to grips with their training. He plans to return to Japan when he graduates in October

Japanese happy to be the odd man out

By Claudia Joseph

THE Norland College, which has trained nannies for the Princess Royal, the Duchess of York and Mick Jagger, has broken with 100 years of tradition to take its first male student.

Katsuki Yuzawa has swapped life in Japan, where he has spent the past four years working at his parents' private nursery, for starched uniforms and Silver Cross prams. He is taking a one-year postgraduate diploma course for international students at the college, near Hungerford in Berkshire, and plans to return to Japan when he graduates in October.

Mr Yuzawa, 22, who comes from Tochigi, said: "I am here because I like children and I like this job taking care of children." He applied for a place after his mother spotted the course while on a tour of training centres in England. He pays £3,600 a term for tuition, board and lodging. But while the other nannies wear brown dresses, hard hats and long brown coats, he sports a navy blazer, burgundy tie and grey flannel trousers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Libel win for Diana's bodyguard

One of the former bodyguards to the late Diana, Princess of Wales, accepted undisclosed High Court libel damages and an unreserved apology over a newspaper article that wrongly said he had been "carpeted" over a break-in at Kensington Palace. Inspector Peter Brown, who was one of the Princess's personal protection officers until 1994, had brought the proceedings over an article that appeared in *The Mirror* in April 1997.

Tarantula rescue

Firefighters broke into a burning flat to save a pet tarantula, only to emerge with a toy spider. They went back inside the home in Salford and found Harry, a Chilean rose tarantula, alive and well in its glass tank.

OBE mystery

A charity shop is trying to trace the owner of an OBE insignia it believes was handed in by mistake. The insignia was discovered in its case inside a bag of clothing that was donated to the Age Concern shop in Ipswich.

Geldof victory

The musician Bob Geldof won a public apology and "substantial" undisclosed libel damages at the High Court in London after *The Sun* accepted that he had not fondled or groped a Soho stripper.

Wedding bells

A bride and groom took ice-cream vans — with chimes playing the *Bridal March* — to their wedding in Pownhope, Herefordshire. Claire Cottrell said her husband, Scott Morrall, "loves his work" with an ice-cream firm.

Air bags boom may harm hearing

By Ian Murray

AIR BAGS in cars save lives but can cause tinnitus and deafness, researchers say. The loud noise generated as the bags inflate has been blamed for the hearing loss.

Inflation of the air bag creates a sound of up to 170 decibels for 0.1 of a second, according to the study led by Graham Buckley, from St James's University Hospital, Leeds, with the help of the Vehicle Safety Research Centre at Loughborough.

Tests using squirrel monkeys found that this noise level did not cause permanent hearing damage or ear-drum perforation. However, the researchers say in the *British Medical Journal* today that the effect on human beings is likely to be more serious, causing acoustic trauma.

In two cases where air bags inflated in low-speed accidents — one at 15mph and the other at 20mph — the researchers found that the drivers suffered hearing loss and tinnitus. They said that there was also a strong possibility of cochlear damage.

The authors say it is surprising that hearing loss is not reported more frequently after air-bag inflation, although this may be because of other factors associated with accidents. The level of the noise in the vehicle depends on the number of occupants, ventilation, size and the number of air bags.

Safety design is moving towards fitting vehicles with air bags that inflate in frontal and side crashes for both the driver and the front-seat passenger. The report says that lack of space means the side bags inflate close to the ear. More ear injuries from air bags are therefore likely in the future, the researchers say.

GM crops set for delay until after election

Experts say they need three years to investigate countryside risks, reports Nick Nuttall

GENETICALLY modified crops are unlikely to be grown commercially until after the next election. A team of scientists and wildlife experts, set up by ministers to assess the impact of the new technology on the countryside and farming, said yesterday that their work could not be completed "for at least three years".

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, who has already secured a one-year voluntary ban from the food industry, said that the Government would stand by the working group set up under his department's Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment. "We will not allow commercial plantings to proceed until we are sure there will be no significant damage to the environment," he said.

John Berringer, chairman of the new working group and of the advisory committee, said that he thought widespread commercial plantings were unlikely for "five to ten years". If the research could demonstrate that significant harm would be inflicted on wildlife and the environment, then the Government could unilaterally ban the crops in Europe, said Professor Berringer, who is based at Bristol University.

Norman Baker, a Liberal Democrat spokesman, challenged the Government's assertion that the acreage of genetically modified test crops was the "size of two football pitches".

The official government statistic is about 717 acres, the equivalent of 350 pitches. Mr Baker was dismayed that only one government inspector had been assigned to monitor the GM crops.

There is a formidable challenge ahead for the new working group, which will include industrialists, scientists, a member of English Nature, the Government's wildlife adviser, a member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and, it is hoped, a farming expert.

Professor Berringer said that there was little research of value from the United States, where millions of acres are given over to genetically modified crops. Farming there was kept separate from wildlife, whereas in Britain the two were intertwined. He added that Britain's countryside was already an artificial place, created by man over many thousands of years.

"We cannot answer what the biodiversity of any wildlife should be in different parts of Britain. But we have to think about this. If you can't define it, you can't defend it in court. It is a major task," Professor Berringer said.

Brian Johnson, of English Nature, who has been appointed to the working group, said that he expected the research to lead to laws on the way that farmers spray herbicides. Herbicide-tolerant crops allow farmers to spray more heavily, he said, killing weeds but leaving the crop untouched. It is feared that this will eradicate the weeds on which birds and other wildlife depend.

Dr Johnson said that it would become crucial to have new rules requiring farmers to leave strips of land free from sprays. "We are facing an extremely powerful agricultural system that gives even small farmers the ability to grow completely weed-free fields."

The first field trials of genetically modified crops have been given the go-ahead for this year. Mr Meacher said that if he was not satisfied with the results, he would seek a further voluntary ban on the release of commercial crops so that more field trials can take place.

Mark Avery, of the RSPB, who was appointed to the working group yesterday, said that only two farms were being used this year. It would be impossible to assess the impact on the whole of Britain's wildlife from such modest trials. "It seems highly unlikely that meaningful trials of gene-modified crops will happen this year. This scientific work is going to take at least three years, which will not be completed until after the general election," Dr Avery said.

Even without the scientific research, commercial plantings are impossible before the summer of 2001. The French Government has blocked the consents needed to commercialise herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape. The crop is the only one ready to be marketed that British farmers may wish to grow.

Mr Meacher has presented the one-year voluntary agreement as a victory for the Government and public concern. But Hugh Manning, biotechnology regulatory affairs head at AgrEvo in King's Lynn, Norfolk, which has developed the new rape crop, said: "We could not have gone ahead anyway this year. We decided not to produce a lot of seed because of the delay in France."

Pete Riley, of Friends of the Earth, said: "Meacher's moratorium is a con. They are hiding behind French skirts. The French moratorium is until June or July 2000 anyway."

Leading article, and Letters, page 23
Media, page 39



Four tonnes of genetically modified soya beans were dumped near the Prime Minister's Downing Street home by protesters yesterday as others occupied part of Liverpool Docks to block shipments from America. Lord Melchett, executive director of Greenpeace, which carried out the actions, accused Tony Blair of being "out of step with public opinion" over genetically modified foods. Seven members of the pressure group were arrested

Hume fears reaching point of no return

By Nick Nuttall and Ruth Gledhill



Hume: contamination would be "very serious"

LEADING Roman Catholics, including the Archbishop of Westminister, Cardinal Basil Hume, have added their voice to concerns over genetically modified crops and foods.

Cardinal Hume said yesterday: "Before we interfere with nature, we need to assess carefully whether the benefits in one area are going to lead to unacceptable results in another." Speaking on Radio 4's *Today* programme, he said it would be "a very serious matter" if genetically modified crops contaminated other crops.

His concern was echoed by John Gummer, the former Environment Secretary, writing in the Catholic weekly *The Tablet*. In the Conservative administration, it was Mr Gummer who authorised trials of some genetically modified crops, but yesterday he said that he backed the position of the Government's wildlife advisers over the need for a three-year moratorium to assess the impact on the wider environment. Mr Gummer likened the emergence of modified crops to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden: "Once we have eaten of the fruit of the tree there is no going back." But this was no excuse for rushing into approving commercial releases until the question of harm to wildlife is resolved.

"There is much to be done. That is why the demand of English Nature for a breathing space while these real worries are considered, is a proper way forward environmentally," he said.



Gummer: favours a three-year moratorium

Wildlife risk will grow, says 'suppressed' report

MODERN farming has seriously damaged British wildlife and the widespread introduction of genetically modified crops could trigger a further decline.

The stark warning came in an official report to ministers by the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, which was published yesterday after claims that ministers had suppressed it. The report will guide the new working group on the countryside issues arising from genetically altered crops.

The report, written by a civil servant in the Department of the Environment's biotechnology unit, said that postwar intensification of farming, chemical sprays and advanced forms of plant breeding had already taken a toll on wildlife, particularly birds. It points to collapses since 1975 in the population of turtle doves (down 79 per cent), linnets (down 49 per cent) and corn buntings, (down 80 per cent).

The conventional development of crops that can tolerate winter conditions has led to the autumn sowing of wheat protected by fungicides. "This has removed the neccessity for winter fallows and ... is considered to be the major cause of the recent decline in some farmland bird populations," the report says.

It also said that the widespread planting of gene-modified crops with features such as herbicide resistance could either reduce or increase the use of agricultural chemicals.

It says that the time has come to take into account the wider environmental impacts and how the crops will be grown in real fields into the "marketing approval process".



EIGHT MONTHS OF LOYALIST TERROR

JULY 1, 1998 Ten arson attacks on Roman Catholic churches in four counties. Red Hand Defenders claim responsibility

(1) SEPTEMBER 5 Bomb kills RUC Constable Frankie O'Reilly in Portadown. Red Hand Defenders claim responsibility

(2) OCTOBER 30 Gunmen spray Farmers Inn in Colin Glen. Red Hand Defenders claim responsibility

(3) OCTOBER 31 Gunmen kill Brian Service, 35, Roman Catholic, as he walked home through North Belfast. Red Hand Defenders claim responsibility

(4) DECEMBER 16 Grenade attack on McKenna's Bar in Crumlin. Red Hand Defenders and Orange Volunteers claim responsibility

(5) JANUARY 7, 1999 Explosion outside Gaelic sports club, injuring a workman. Orange Volunteers claim responsibility

NORTHERN IRELAND — REPUBLIC OF IRELAND — Irish Sea — Belfast — 20 miles

(6) JANUARY 19 Device explodes outside home of Catholic farmer Patrick Shields near Loughinisland. Orange Volunteers claim responsibility

(7) JANUARY 23 3am: devices thrown at two Catholic homes in Larne

(8) JANUARY 25 Pipe bomb found by car of Catholic Seamus Mullan, who lives on mainly Protestant estate in Greenisland. Red Hand Defenders claim responsibility

(9) JANUARY 29 1am: pipe bomb attack on the home of the Catholic Quinn family in Dungannon. Red Hand Defenders claim responsibility

(10) FEBRUARY 1 Device thrown at group standing outside St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Antrim. Red Hand Defenders claim responsibility

(11) FEBRUARY 8 Pipe bomb thrown at the Catholic-owned White Horse Inn near Crumlin. Orange Volunteers claim responsibility

(12) FEBRUARY 8 Grenade thrown at McNally's bar, owned by a former Sinn Fein councillor in Castledawson. Orange Volunteers claim responsibility

Extremist few strive to keep the hatred alive

Martin Fletcher reports on the last-ditch terror campaign by a handful of loyalist bigots



Mary Quinn after the attack on her Dungannon home and, right, Chrissie Quinn, whose boys were killed in Ballymoney



CHRISSIE QUINN and Mary Quinn share more than a surname. Both are Roman Catholics. Both have had their homes attacked by loyalist extremists in the middle of the night while their children slept upstairs.

The difference is that while Chrissie Quinn's three boys were burnt alive in Ballymoney last July, Mary Quinn's four children escaped when the pipe bomb thrown at their Dungannon home a few days ago failed to explode.

"We all could have been killed," said Mary Quinn, who was dozing in her living room when the 9in-long bomb smashed through her kitchen window at 1am. She telephoned the police and rushed upstairs to get her children, aged between 5 and 11.

Peace is a relative term in Northern Ireland. There have been no big bombs since Omagh last August. The IRA and some of its loyalist counterparts have halted, at least temporarily, their punishment shootings and beatings. But no peace accord or Stormont assembly can simply legislate away 30 years of sectarian hatred, and a tiny number of extreme loyalist bigots are still seeking to terrorise the Province's Catholics.

In recent months the self-styled Orange Volunteers and the Red Hand Defenders have between them attacked more than 20 Catholic churches, bars and homes in five of Northern Ireland's six counties. They have killed a policeman in Portadown and a young man who was walking home through North Belfast late one night, and it is only a matter of time before one of their crude devices causes the sort of carnage that destroyed Chrissie Quinn's family.



A pipe bomb of the type thrown into the Quinns' kitchen

Only last week nine people escaped when a grenade thrown at a bar in Co Londonderry bounced off the reinforced glass window and exploded. "You can have several dead, or scorch marks on the outside of a wall. It's as hit or miss as that," said a senior security source, who expected the attacks to increase before the scheduled establishment of Northern Ireland's new power-sharing executive next month.

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, describes these overlapping groups as a "loose collection of the lowest common denominator of terrorists and criminals on the so-called loyalist side of life". Their attacks are designed specifically "to unnerve others, to bring about a reaction and to attack the peace process", and "they pose a very real threat".

The police are working to build their intelligence on the groups but security sources called them a "rag, tag and bobtail army" of perhaps two or three dozen people. They said it was "extremely difficult to tie down who's who and what's what .... We're talking about very small numbers of very nasty people."

There is evidence that a self-styled Protestant fundamentalist clergyman from Belfast is behind the Orange Volunteers. They appear to have access to arms and grenades imported from South Africa by the Ulster Resistance movement in the late 1980s. Some, but certainly not all, were members of the singularly ruthless Loyalist Volunteer Force, which joined the general ceasefire last April.

Only one journalist has so far met the Orange Volunteers face to masked face. Late last November Ivan Little of Ulster Television was hooded and driven to an unidentified location where eight men displayed a sawn-off shotgun, handguns, rifles, a sub-machinegun and grenades.

Their presentation began with a Bible reading, closed with prayers, and included the reading of a prepared statement that denounced the peace process and declared: "We are prepared to defend our people and if it comes to the crunch we will assassinate the enemies of Ulster." Those enemies included republican prisoners released under the Good Friday peace accord and went "wider than just Sinn Fein and the IRA". The Orange Volunteers' codeword is said to be taken from Revelation.

The Red Hand Defenders also claim a spurious religious justification for their actions. Their statement admitting arson attacks on ten Catholic churches last July talked of "the cleansing of ten Roman temples" and quoted Deuteronomy: "Ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire. For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God."

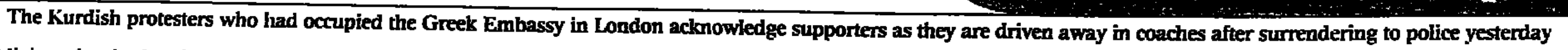
KURDISH CRISIS: MINISTERS PAY THE PRICE

Cabinet is purged in Greece as public applauds

Pro-Kurdish feeling in the country claims its first scapegoats for a fiasco, writes **John Carr** in Athens



ADAM BUTLER / AP



The Kurdish protesters who had occupied the Greek Embassy in London acknowledge supporters as they are driven away in coaches after surrendering to police yesterday

IN A dramatic sequel to two days of intense national controversy over Greece's role in the capture of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish guerrilla chieftain, Theodoros Pangalos, the Foreign Minister, and two other Cabinet ministers were dismissed yesterday.

The sackings were a desperate move by Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister, to halt a nosedive in the popularity of his Socialist Government in the face of overwhelmingly pro-Kurdish sentiment here. For months, Mr Simitis's Government has been heavily criticised as weak in the face of perceived Turkish pressures and as too ready to bow to Brussels and Washington.

Mr Simitis moved quickly to replace Mr Pangalos with George Papandreou, his deputy, whose soft-spoken style often helped to smooth feathers ruffled by his predecessor. A son of the Socialist Party founder, the late Andreas Papandreou, he is respected in European capitals and the US.

However, a national convention of the Socialist Party, in which Mr Simitis's leadership could well come under challenge, is only a month away.

Alexandros Papadopoulos, the Minister for the Interior, and Philippos Petsalmikos, the Public Order Minister, were also dismissed over the Government's mishandling of the Ocalan affair.

Mr Pangalos, apparently caught by surprise by his dismissal, had scheduled a meeting with a Slovak visitor, only to have to cut it short to announce his departure. "You will judge whether our handling was the best possible," he told reporters in a rueful jab at the media's mounting criticism of him and its vigorously pro-Kurdish tone.

Mr Pangalos blamed pro-Kurdish elements in and out of the administration for "a crime against the country" — bringing Mr Ocalan secretly to Greece on at least two occasions in the past month and entangling the Government in the affair. On Tuesday, Mr Pangalos had been forced to disclose Greece's secret sheltering of Mr Ocalan at the Greek Embassy in Nairobi.

The response to his dismissal was electric. "Good riddance to the man!" shouted one worker in a government office. She rushed from the room to tell her colleagues. Outside, people gathered around car radios to catch the bulletins, many applauding.

The reason for the sacking of Mr Papadopoulos and Mr Petsalmikos was less clear.

Mr Papadopoulos, bewildered and indignant, claimed to have been kept totally in the dark about Mr Ocalan's stay under secret Greek diplomatic protection. However, his ministry is in charge of the intelligence service, whose agents appear to have been critically involved in all stages of Mr Ocalan's link with Greece.

Sources close to the service told Greek television that one of its officers was emotionally attached to the Kurdish cause and was at Mr Ocalan side in Kenya on orders from the agency's chiefs.

Mr Petsalmikos, who had been Public Order Minister for only three months, said he had been given no information about Mr Ocalan's movements in Greece and Kenya. He implicitly accused the intelligence service of having acted independently of any state authority in admitting Mr Ocalan to Greece briefly last month. His remarks raised the possibility that there is a faction inside the service which has enough influence to affect the conduct of Greece's foreign policy.

A surprise appointment in the reshuffle was that of the Minister for Culture, Evangelos Venizelos, who has agitated for the return of the Elgin Marbles, to the Development Ministry. Mr Venizelos replaced Vasso Papandreou, who took over the Ministry of the Interior.

☐ **Nairobi:** President Moi of Kenya sacked the heads of the police force, the Criminal Investigations Department and the Immigration Service in the wake of the abduction here of Mr Ocalan. *(AFP)*



Papandreou: soft-spoken new Foreign Minister



German police arrest protesters

FROM TONY PATERSON IN BERLIN

POLICE arrested hundreds of Kurdish protesters in towns and cities across Germany yesterday as violent demonstrations over Turkey's capture of the PKK leader, Abdullah Ocalan, swept the country for the third successive day.

In an attempt to tighten security after Wednesday's disastrous incident at the Berlin Israeli consulate in which three Kurds were shot dead by Israeli security guards, German police were put on a state of high alert throughout the country's 16 federal states.

Police detained hundreds of militant supporters of the banned Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in Berlin, Wiesbaden, Bremen, Heilbronn, Chemnitz and Stuttgart. The worst violence occurred in Wiesbaden where police used water cannon and baton charges in clashes with some 300 PKK supporters to forcibly end their occupation of the Hessen state interior ministry grounds. Thirteen protesters were subsequently arrested.

In Berlin more than 200 Kurds defied a ban on political demonstrations and tried to stage a silent march to mourn the deaths of the three Kurds, but were thwarted by by hundreds of riot police.

Israel steps up security abroad after killings

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SCORES of extra Israeli security guards have been flown to diplomatic missions and institutions abroad in anticipation of attacks to avenge Wednesday's killing of three Kurds who stormed the Israeli consulate in Berlin.

Offices and flights of the national airline El Al are regarded as particularly likely targets and there are fears that Kurds may carry out aircraft hijackings.

A spokesman for the Kurdish underground, Ahmed Yaman, told the biggest-selling Tel Aviv newspaper *Yediot Aharonot:* "From now on, Israel has become the chief target for terror attacks by the Kurdish rebels, because of the massacre it perpetrated on the Kurds in the consulate in Berlin."

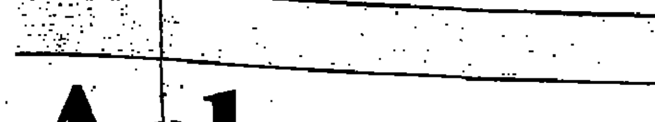
Mr Yaman, speaking at Kurdish offices in Rome, announced that the underground's military wing would strike at Israeli targets "not in Europe, but rather in Turkey and in the Middle East". He attacked the assistance he claimed Israel extended to Turkey in its battle against the Kurds and called relations between the two states "dirty".

Mr Yaman said: "The Jewish nation has suffered more than any other nation on Earth, so how is it possible that you do not understand our suffering?" The paper also quoted one of the Kurds who had been occupying the Greek Embassy in London as saying: "The shooting of women and children was a big mistake for Israel. We will take vengeance on you. How is it that you killed our people? From now on, you are our enemy."

The Kurdish spokesman added: "Now see what is going to happen. We are not the poor Palestinians who do not know how to get organised. We are organised, and your army is going to pay the price."

Ronni Shaked, a former agent for Israel's Shin Bet, the equivalent of MI5, said in the same paper that while opening fire on the Kurds in Berlin may have halted the attack in Germany — justified by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, as an act of "self defence" — the deaths could end up costing Israeli lives.

"The PKK is going to look for revenge," Mr Shaked predicted. He said a likely target could be Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, where the PKK has training camps and works closely with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God). Israel's Channel 2 TV said the Israeli Army, fearing such an attack, was on high alert in southern Lebanon.



KURDISH CRISIS: TURKEY CRACKS DOWN

Ankara rounds up Kurdish dissidents

Turkey insists that the captured rebel leader will get a fair trial, writes Richard Owen in Ankara

TURKEY promised yesterday to give Abdullah Ocalan, the captured Kurdish leader, a fair trial despite international misgivings about Turkey's human rights record.

But as Ankara issued its assurances, police cracked down on Kurdish dissidents, imprisoning hundreds of activists while at the same time launching attacks on Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Turkey "would not tolerate any foreign interference in the trial of Mr Ocalan, who was captured by Turkish special forces in Nairobi on Monday and brought to Turkey on Tuesday. He is being held in isolation on the prison island of Imrali, where according to some reports the trial may be held. "Everyone should respect the independence of the Turkish judiciary," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

Ismail Cem, the Foreign Minister, said during a visit to Prague that Turkey had "as developed a legal system as any other Western country".

Asked to comment on an appeal lodged by Mr Ocalan with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, asking for emergency measures to protect him from torture, Mr Cem said: "I do not understand why more can be done." He added: "What we have here is a legal matter and our independent judiciary will deal with it."

Mr Ocalan is to be tried on treason charges, which carry a possible death sentence, although nobody has been executed since 1984. Turkey regards Mr Ocalan and his Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) as responsible for the deaths of nearly 30,000 people during a 14-year-old Kurdish insurgency in southeastern Turkey.

Turkish newspapers yesterday were almost entirely devoted to the capture of Mr Ocalan, who first took refuge in Italy last November but left Rome in the middle of last month and had been a fugitive ever since.

The front page of the newspaper *Milliyet* consisted of a huge photograph of Mr Ocalan in handcuffs on the plane that brought him back to Turkey, guarded by a young special forces commando in a black balaclava under a headline consisting of the single word "Finished".

Police yesterday arrested more than 350 supporters of the main legal Kurdish party during raids in Istanbul and towns in southeast Turkey, according to the Human Rights Association. "We do not have an exact tally," a spokesman said. Television showed further footage from a video taken by intelligence of Mr Ocalan in captivity on the plane, in a move apparently designed to demoralise his followers.

The Council of Europe said that it hoped to send a delegation to Turkey to "assess the conditions under which Abdullah Ocalan is being held". Lord Russell-Johnston, head of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, said that, provided the Turkish authorities co-operated, the delegation would seek assurances that Mr Ocalan was in good health. Although Turkish membership of the European Union has long been delayed because of doubts about its human rights record, it is a full Council of Europe member.

Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, said Italy was "worried that Ocalan may not have a fair trial". He recalled that Italy had refused to hand Mr Ocalan to Turkey last November when the Kurdish leader arrived in Rome because the death penalty is in force in Turkey. Mr Ocalan's request for asylum in Italy was still being processed when he left the country last month.

Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, said that the trial of Mr Ocalan, which is likely to be held within the next 10 to 12 days, would be "very free and very just because justice is very free and autonomous in Turkey".

Defence lawyers from Italy and The Netherlands claiming to represent Mr Ocalan have been denied entry to Turkey. Mr Ecevit said that the lawyers wanted "to inspect Turkey's system of justice when in fact they have no right to have any doubts about it".

Mr Ocalan's brother Osman, urged Kurdish activists to "burn the enemy" and step up the protests on Turkish soil against Abdullah Ocalan's capture and impending trial.

Simon Jenkins, page 22
Leading article, page 23

SERMONS TO PRAISE THE STATE

Ankara: Turkey's state religious authority ordered clerics in their sermons to emphasise crimes committed by Abdullah Ocalan. "This event has shown how powerful the Turkish state is. Tell your community what Ocalan has done and the lesson which should be learned from it," Mehmet Nuri Yilmaz, head of the Religious Affairs Directorate, was quoted as saying.



Abdullah Ocalan is put on display before facing interrogation yesterday

Military steps up air raids on rebels

By Michael Evans
Defence Editor

THOUSANDS of Turkish troops, backed by helicopters and aircraft, continued attacks on Kurdish rebel positions in northern Iraq yesterday.

Although Ankara denied that the military operation in pursuit of PKK rebels was linked to the seizure of their leader, Abdullah Ocalan, it underlined the Government's apparent determination to cause maximum disruption to the Kurdish cause.

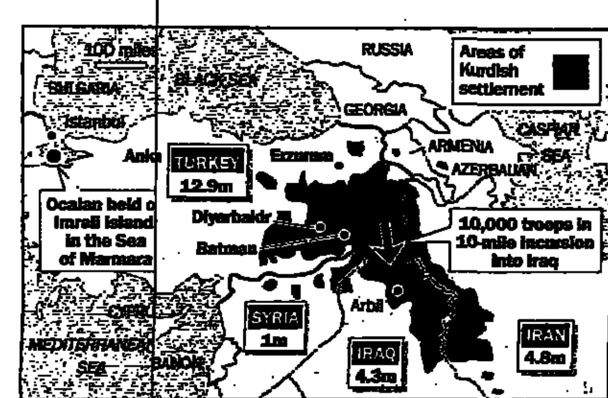
Up to 4,000 soldiers attacked PKK bases in the northeast corner of Iraq, where United Nations humanitarian agencies operate. Some reports suggested that 10,000 troops were involved.

The troops, who advanced at least nine miles into Iraq, were supported by US-made Cobra helicopter gunships and strike aircraft. The gunships fired on rebel positions in the Metina mountains.

A Turkish security official was quoted as saying: "The operation will continue until its aims have been met. The terrorists are in a state of panic."

Although Turkey has retained a semi-permanent force on the northern Iraqi side of the border since the 1991 Gulf War, the latest attack was said by Ankara to be in response to a PKK build-up. Last night the Anatolia news agency reported that PKK camps in northern Iraq were destroyed, forcing the rebels to flee to Iran.

Island jail is cleared so special forces can guard their lone prisoner



By Richard Owen
and Andrew Finkel

AN ENTIRE stretch of Turkish coastline was effectively shut down and deserted yesterday because of the presence in the area of one man: Abdullah Ocalan, the captured Kurdish leader who is being held on the island of Imrali, just over 30 miles south of Istanbul in the Sea of Marmara.

Tourist maps do not tend to make a feature of Imrali. They draw attention instead to the nearby Princes Islands, which are popular resorts reached by ferry from Istanbul. On the four of the nine Princes Islands that are inhabited, cars are banned and horse-drawn carriages are used.

From a distance, Imrali appears equally picturesque, and even has a small harbour. But the quayside is now covered in armoured military and police vehicles. On closer inspection, Imrali is somewhat grimmer than the other islands and appears sparsely wooded and somewhat barren.

Imrali is an island prison, and according to Turkish authorities is an ideal place to hold the captured Kurdish leader and ensure that no attempts are made to rescue him. The island normally houses some 250 prisoners, all of whom have been transferred elsewhere, leaving Mr Ocalan a lone inmate. He is being guarded by the kind of special forces who captured him in Kenya on Monday night, instead of the usual prison guards.

"Imrali will be a very secure place for him," Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, said. Turkish naval vessels are patrolling the waters around the four square-mile island, and security has been stepped up in Bandirma and Mudanya, the two coastal towns that face Imrali. All shops and cafes there have been closed.

Imrali became a Turkish possession in the 14th century, and had a sizeable Greek population until the 1930s when they were sent back to Greece in an exchange of minorities.

The island became a prison two years later. Prisoners on Imrali normally work on a farm, and its products are sold in Istanbul and other Turkish towns. Officials yesterday said it was most unlikely that Mr Ocalan would "engage in agriculture" while he awaits trial. Until recently, Imrali was the "des-res" of the Turkish prisoner elite. It was from the "semi-open" prison that Yilmaz Guney escaped in 1982, when Turkey was under martial law, to collect his Palme d'Or in Cannes for his film, *Yol*.

Yol begins with a group of prisoners departing from Imrali on compassionate leave, only to discover a society less free than the island.

Mr Ocalan is unlikely to get that opportunity. The suggestion is that he will be tried in a court set up on the island.

Russians fly for both sides in Horn of Africa

Robin Lodge reports from Mekele on a new breed of mercenaries

TUCKED away at the far end of the airstrip at Mekele, the provincial capital of Tigre and northern command headquarters of the Ethiopian Air Force, a gleaming Russian-made Sukhoi 27 fighter-bomber stood on the concrete apron yesterday, ready for a sortie over the Ethiopian-Eritrean border.

It had landed the previous evening, along with five other Russian-built combat aircraft, rather elderly MiG 21s and MiG 23s, which were also dispersed around distant points of the airfield.

Even farther, hidden from prying eyes was the plane's crew. But away from the airstrip, in the bars and hotels of Mekele, the men can be found: Russians and Ukrainians, mainly, with a few Bulgarians, all working as technicians, advisers and instructors. It is an open secret that there are as many on the Eritrean side, where the 12 or so combat planes of the air force are understood to include five MiG 29s. Over the coming weeks, Russians could be shooting down Russians over the Horn of Africa.

The Russians have all been hired on private contracts with Russian companies, usually as part of a package including the supply of the planes, parts and maintenance — with no involvement by the Russian Government. The same would apply to the Ukrainians and Bulgarians. "It takes quite a while to train a pilot to fly something as sophisticated as a Sukhoi 27 or MiG 29.

There are probably one or two Ethiopian pilots who have reached that standard by now, with about the same number among the Eritreans — but you cannot afford to take risks with planes as valuable as that," a military analyst said.

Even the experts are not immune. Last month a Sukhoi 27 crash-landed at the main Ethiopian airbase at Debre Zeyit, 40 miles southeast of Addis Ababa. The embarrassed pilot was a Russian ex-air force colonel. Since the collapse of Soviet power, pilots and other military experts from the former Soviet Union are turning up in scores all over Africa, from Angola to Sudan to Sierra Leone.

Their scope for employment is assisted by the quantity of Soviet military hardware on the continent, dating from the time when Moscow was building up relations with new African states and national liberation movements and supplying military equipment at bargain-basement rates. With the cuts in Russia's armed forces, highly qualified military personnel found themselves without a job and have been eager to take up the opportunities that open up with every new African conflict.

Even among pilots kept on in the new Russian Air Force, poor living conditions and non-payment of wages has made life harder. Even worse, there are far fewer opportunities to fly, because of a lack of funds to buy fuel. Many top-level Russian fighter pilots say that they are no longer getting enough air time to keep their edge. For these men, the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict can only be good news, especially as neither side has risked committing its frontline combat aircraft to a confrontation.

Leading article, page 23

 **LINKS**

http://www.NetAfrica.org/eritrea — The Eritrean Government website.
http://etonline.netnation.com/ — The Ethiopian Website.
http://eritrea.org/ — Eritrean Network Information Center.
http://www.africapolicy.org — New from the Africa Policy Information Center.

ALEXANDER JOE / EPA



An Ethiopian family finds shelter by a cave on a mountain at Mbarekena after fleeing their home on the frontier with Eritrea as fighting rages on the eastern front. Both sides have kept their Russian-manned air forces ready for action

Famine cuts North Korea population 'by two million'

FROM JENNIFER VEALE IN SEOUL

BETWEEN two and three million North Koreans have died of starvation or fled to neighbouring China and Russia since 1995 when chronic food shortages began, according to a secret survey said to have been conducted in the Communist country.

South Korea's intelligence agency said that a classified report by Pyongyang's Public Security Ministry showed that the North's population had plunged more than 500,000 a year over the past four years — due mainly to starvation and disease, but also to defection.

The National Intelligence Service did not reveal how it came by the information, which, if accurate, would mean that successive years of floods, drought and famine have left the country in worse shape than previously believed.

While the death toll is unknown, South Korean officials believe that the Stalinist nation's population has plunged to 22 million from 24 million in 1994.

Last year a visiting American congressional delegation reported that about two million North Koreans were believed to have died from malnutrition and disease since 1995.

"The North's population is expected to continue to decrease unless it eases its severe food shortages," an intelligence official was quoted as saying. The Public Security Ministry reportedly conducted the census ahead of the polls to elect candidates to the tenth Supreme People's Assembly — North Korea's parliament.

The North's food shortages began in 1994, when massive floods swept the country, destroying crops and huge tracts of arable land.

Drought in successive years and obsolete farming techniques compounded the famine. International relief agencies have responded over the past five years with more than £625 million in food aid. But many North Koreans have fled to China and Russia looking for food and a trade in North Korean refugees has sprung up along the country's border with China.

The North is pressing for more food aid from the United States in return for access to an underground site which Washington suspects is a nuclear facility in breach of a 1994 anti-nuclear pact.

Under the deal, North Korea froze its nuclear programme in return for modern light-water reactors and economic aid from the United States and its allies. A Seoul newspaper reported yesterday that agreement between Pyongyang and Washington was expected by early next month on a deal to swap food aid and an easing of sanctions for access to the disputed site. It said the deal would also cover Pyongyang's contentious missile programme.

Another report said that Seoul was considering providing the North with 30,000 tonnes of fertiliser next month before the spring planting season.

South Korea recently gave the go-ahead for private citizens to make aid donations to the North rather than go through the Red Cross.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Mugabe reform offer spurned

Harare: An attempt by Zimbabwe's ruling Zai (PF) party to draft a new constitution under a process contiled by President Mugabe was rejected by the political andvic organisations asked to participate (Jan Raath writ). The three groups that account for political activity outsie the Government said such a process could not produce a gitimate constitution and gave a warning that unless ZanPF) agreed to a transparent and independent mechanism, th would work to see that Zimbabweans "make their own conitution, in direct confrontation and in opposition to the Germment".

Marriage uphelc

Karachi: A Pakistani couple who were harassand arrested after marrying against family wishes were lelly married, the Lahore High Court ruled. Their lawyer, Ha Jilani, said: "This is a landmark judgment." Humaira d Mahmood Butt married in May 1997, but her family clmed she had married a cousin the month before and that ahmood had kidnapped her. Police later dragged the couplevay from Karachi airport as they tried to leave the country*Reuters)*

Briton 'aiding reels'

Monrovia: Eight people, including a Briton,n Australian and a Lebanese, have been arrested here for "ollaborating" with Sierra Leone rebels. The suspects were rested at the offices of a local company, Red Deer Internaonal, and included its general manager, Richard Ratcliffa British national. Joe Tate, the police chief, said military uiforms, communication equipment and sensitive docunnts were retrieved from the alleged collaborators with threbels. *(AFP)*

Aids attacker jaied



Lafayette, Louisiana: Dr Richard Schmidt, right, who gave his lover the Aids virus by injecting her with infected blood, has received the maximum penalty — 50 years' hard labour — for attempted second-degree murder. Prosecutors said that he injected Janice Allen, a nurse, after she told him their ten-year relationship was over. *(AP)*

Bicycle boy 'framed'

Chicago: The family of one of two boys initiallcharged with killing an 11-year-old girl for her bicycle sued hicago police for $100 million (£61 million), saying detectis framed the boy. The boys, ages seven and eight, had been ausedof beating Ryan Harris, suffocating her and molestinher. The suit filed by the eight-year-old's family claims deteives arrested the boy, interrogated him without his paren or a lawyer present, and intimidated him into a confessioi *(AP)*

Dr Richard Sauders

In a report, "Rhinos will pay price of Mugabeurm seizures" (December 15, 1997), Dr Richard Saunders, scribed as a Harare-based Canadian economist, was quoted saying: "The advice is simple, get your money out and then g yourself out, before Mugabe grabs some other part of the ecomy." We now accept that Dr Saunders (who is a political scient, not an economist) holds no such views and did not make thstatement attributed to him. We apologise for the embarrassent caused.

Gibraltar celebrates as court rules it has right to vote in EU elections

By Dominique Searle in Gibraltar

AMID the Anglo-Spanish dispute over Gibraltar's sovereignty and fishing rights, Peter Caruana, the Chief Minister, yesterday celebrated a landmark decision by the European court of Human Rights.

By a majority of 15 to two, the judges found Britain in breach of the Convention on Human Rights by denying Gibraltarians and other EU nationals living in Gibraltar the right to vote or stand for the European Parliament.

Under British law, only citizens of the United Kingdom may take part in European elections. The court's ruling in effect orders Britain to extend voting rights to Gibraltarians.

The court also ordered London to pay legal costs of £45,000 to Denise Matthews, who took the case to court. "This is a first step for Gibraltar to be recognised within the European Union," she said.

Announcing this as "a momentous and historic occasion", Mr Caruana said that, if Spain vetoed the extension of the vote to Gibraltarians, it *would be responsible for the denial of a basic human right.*

Ms Matthews, 24, who is British and lives in Gibraltar, applied to be registered as a voter in the European elections in April 1994, but was told Gibraltar was not included in the electoral franchise. "I was shocked and delighted when I heard the news, and I am proud of my father who initiated the bid," she said.

The ruling puts pressure on Britain, which has been arguing that *it cannot allow EU* votes by Gibraltarians without the consent of other member states, including Spain.

The Foreign Office said Britain had never objected on principle to Gibraltarians voting in EU elections, and did not want to deny their rights.

A spokeswoman said: "It is not in our power unilaterally to extend the franchise . . . [but] the judgment greatly strengthens the basis on which to approach other member states. The Government will be initiating consultations on the way forward."

Madrid declined to comment, but observers said Spain could be expected to oppose any moves to turn the ruling into law by rewriting the EU Act on direct elections, which would require a unanimous vote from EU members.

Mr Caruana told reporters that the ruling would be "an enormous boost for morale in Gibraltar, where many have *felt that we are only part of the* EU for a one-way street of obligations without benefits."

Joe Bossano, Opposition leader, said Gibraltar should be encouraged to pursue other challenges, such as the right to self-determination.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Abel Matutes, his Spanish counterpart, will meet on Sunday in Brussels to discuss the deadlock on Gibraltar.

Mr Cook told the Commons *this week that there could be* no compromise over sovereignty against Gibraltarian wishes, and he will be seeking guarantees that Spain will lift its tough border controls which have disrupted traffic. Although the length of vehicle queues has diminished slightly this week. Gibraltar police said visiting traffic had dropped by 80 per cent and that this, not the easing of controls by Spain, had led to the reduction.

Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, yesterday accused the Government of weakening its position by failing to condemn unreservedly the Spanish threat to refuse recognition to Gibraltar driving licences.

Britons advised to quit Belgrade as peace talks falter

Dayton mediator may be called in, write Tom Walker in Rambouillet and Michael Binyon

WESTERN nations yesterday called on their citizens to leave Yugoslavia immediately and began the evacuation of their embassies, clearly expecting that the Kosovo peace talks in Rambouillet are on the verge of breakdown.

Officials at the British, Canadian and American embassies in Belgrade urged all visitors and residents to leave, and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said that planning had begun for American diplomats to pull out.

"In view of the increasingly volatile situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is advising against travel to the FRY and advising British nationals in the FRY to leave immediately," a British diplomat said.

But the Foreign Office insisted last night that its diplomats would remain, and that the embassy's statement was merely a warning to the large British community in Yugoslavia to get ready to pull out.

Anxious not to pre-empt the failure of the Rambouillet talks, Britain was trying not to give any impression that bombing was imminent. But the statement by the State Department and by the Canadians suggests that the contingency plans have been made and that all the main Western embassies are afraid that their citizens could become hostages if they remained behind.

Western officials close to the Kosovo talks clung grimly to their line that an eleventh-hour miracle can be achieved before midday tomorrow, bringing the ethnic Albanians and Serbs to a deal on Kosovo's political future and helping to save the Contact Group from diplomatic catastrophe.

The readiness of Nato jets to begin bombing sorties against targets within Serbia concentrated minds and heightened what one diplomat called the "rumble over Rambouillet".

But at the same time a telephone call from President Yeltsin to President Clinton warned the West against precipitate action. "We will not let you touch Kosovo," Mr Yeltsin is reported to have said, although the White House later denied there had been any contact between the two leaders for days.

As the British Embassy in Belgrade began organising a convoy to take non-essential staff, families and dependants out of Serbia today, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and his French counterpart, Hubert Védrine, sensed that public opinion in Belgrade was wavering. A joint press release they sent to media in the Serbian capital implored Yugoslavs to have "the courage for the right choice". Only Nato ground troops could save Kosovo, it said, and to help "bring Yugoslavia firmly into the family of modern European nations".

Most controversially, it promised Yugoslavs "the Kosovo Albanians will have to give up their demand for independence", a phrase that angers the Albanians, who claim that Yugoslavia's sovereignty over Kosovo cannot be directly stated in the overall Contact Group peace plan. There was no word last night as to whether the largely state-controlled media would use the release.

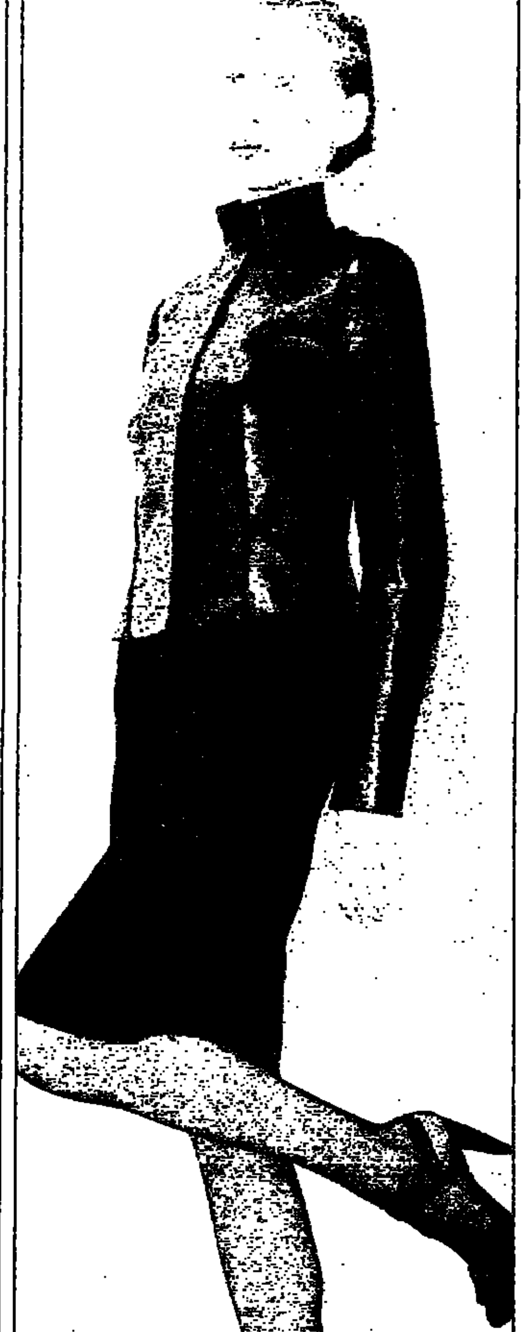
On a day when the conference rumour mill in Rambouillet spun out of control, facts were at a premium. The hottest whisper within the journalist-filled cafés beyond the château gates was that Richard Holbrooke, the Balkan peacebroker and architect of the Dayton Accords for Bosnia, was about to bring his messianic touch to the talks. Adding to the general sense of chaos, a group of 500 Kurds chanting *Libérez Ocalan*, continued their protests in the main town square.

Reliable sources did confirm, however, that new articles had been added to the Contact Group's constitution for the autonomous Kosovo, which the Serb delegation at least deemed broadly acceptable. But Albanian delegates were said to be "spitting blood" at a fudge they believed had been cooked up behind their backs, and which included the dreaded sovereignty principle.

Another article they contest provides for a bicameral legislature, with an upper house containing members from all of Kosovo's ethnic communities, with the threshold for representation reduced from 5 per cent to 0.5 per cent. President Milosevic is said to have insisted on such a body, through which he hopes to put a break on the power of the proposed Albanian-dominated lower house.

Away from the legal niceties, the Pentagon said it was sending 41 warplanes to forward staging bases in Europe, including 12 F117 Nighthawk stealth fighters, ten radar-jamming EA6B Prowlers, four KC10 refuellers and 25 KC135 refuelers. Additional aircraft, including B52 and B2 bombers, remain on standby.

PHOTOGRAPHS, SIMON WALKER



One of the fashion shots for this year's Calvin Klein autumn-winter collection

Calvin Klein bows to child ad's critics

From Associated Press in New York

CALVIN KLEIN, the clothes manufacturer, has withdrawn a US advertising campaign after critics said that the advertisements for children's underwear may have gone too far.

"The comments and reaction that we have received today raised issues that we had not fully considered," the company said in a statement. "As a result, we have decided to discontinue the campaign immediately."

The campaign was to have been launched yesterday with a billboard in New York City's Times Square featuring boys and girls in underwear jumping on a sofa. A black-and-white photograph of the promotion was published in full-page newspaper advertisements on Wednesday.

"You have paedophiles in this society. Anything that could get them excited is irresponsible and reckless," Donald Wildmon, president of the American Family Association in Tupelo, Mississippi, said, adding that the photograph was pornographic.

Rudolph Giuliani, Mayor of New York, who championed the transformation of Times Square from a seedy peepshow area into a glitzy commercial centre, had said there was nothing the city could do about the billboard, which would have been placed among other advertisements that included scantily clad men and women selling everything from bras to socks.

"The First Amendment [to the Constitution] allows a whole range of expression," he said. But he added: "It's in very bad taste."

Bernard Yenelouis, of the International Centre for Photography, in Manhattan, said that the advertisement was "a very ordinary image", similar to family snapshots.

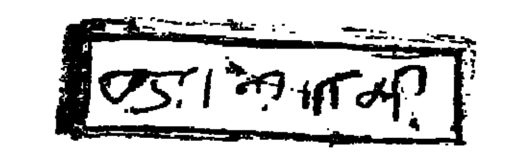
The company said that the campaign to launch Calvin Klein underwear for kids was "intended to show children smiling, laughing and just being themselves".



Calvin Klein discusses the withdrawal of the campaign



Photograph that led to the row



Hillbilly robbers spend their way into jail

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

A GANG of mobile home-dwelling hillbillies have made a name for themselves by pulling off one of America's biggest robberies — and being among the dumbest criminals.

The gang escaped with $17 million (£10.4 million) after an audacious robbery. But they were caught because they could not wait to spend their loot.

Steve Chambers had conspired with David Ghantt, an employee at the armoured car firm Loomis, Fargo & Co. to make off with almost a ton and a half of cash from the company's warehouse in Charlottesville, North Carolina.

But while Ghantt lay low in Mexico, Chambers, 31, and his wife, Michelle, 26, decided to spend, spend, spend.

Neighbours started to scratch their heads when three weeks after the robbery, the couple swapped their mobile home for a $635,000 mansion in a gated community in a swish country club.

Then they bought a convertible BMW, a Harley-Davidson, a $10,000 pool table, $43,000 diamond ring, Rolex watches and $20,000-worth of Cuban cigars which were ruined because Chambers did not know he had to put water in the humidor. She had breast implants, and he turned up at a very ordinary restaurant in a chauffeur-driven limousine. On one night out he left $900 in tips, and when he argued with his wife in a nightclub and was thrown out he bragged that he would return and buy the place.

> 'When he was thrown out he bragged that he would come back and buy the place'

Mrs Chambers even went to the bank with $200,000 in bills, still neatly bundled in Loomis, Fargo wrappings, and asked how much she could deposit before the bank would report the transaction.

The police were tipped off, and recruited an accomplice of Chambers, who had become frightened after being asked to smuggle a load of cash to the Cayman Islands. Officers swooped after they tracked down Ghantt, who had become a target of a Chambers murder plot. Seventeen people are now awaiting sentence.

Deputy marshal Steve Gladden said the stupidity of the robbers was astonishing: "Let's face it, you're moving from a trailer in a field in a remote county to the country club. It was very much the Beverly Hillbillies."



GEORGE NIKTIN / AP

Evan Slater suffers a fall while defying waves up to 30ft in the ultimate test of nerve in the surfing contest at Mavericks, near Half Moon Bay, northern California

Surfers fall for $15,000

Los Angeles: Twenty surfers known for their ability to ride waves the height of three-storey houses competed for hard cash off one of the world's most dangerous beaches. The winner took home $10,000 (£5,500), and a $5,000 bonus for pulling off a stunt most surfers only ever manage by accident — a vertical free-fall (Giles Whittell writes).

Darryl Virostko, 27, executed a perfect "airdrop" on the front face of a 30ft swell as it rolled towards the northern Californian coast. The manoeuvre required him to lose contact with his board, land safely on it again and surf away without being dashed on the rocks.

The contest on Wednesday was the first one-day invitational to be held at Mavericks, a legendary break hidden from the coast road by a windswept promontory a short drive south of San Francisco.



http://www.mavsurfer.com — website for Maverick contest
http://www.damoon.net/sea/index2.html — Surfers Environmental Alliance website USA.
http://www.britsurf.org/ — Official website for British Surfing news.

Black's belated pardon

President to clear 19th-century victim of army racism, writes Ian Brodie in Washington

A BLACK American hero who fell victim to racism more than a century ago will be exonerated at the White House today.

President Clinton will grant a posthumous pardon to Henry Flipper, who was born a slave before the Civil War. With enormous perseverance in the face of racial hostility, he became the first black to graduate with an army commission from West Point, only to be accused falsely of theft.

Lieutenant Flipper's descendants and others who have fought to clear his name will attend the ceremony. His triumphs over adversity have been an inspiration to other blacks. General Colin Powell kept a portrait of Flipper on the wall of his Pentagon office while serving as America's top military officer. At West Point, there is an annual Henry Flipper award for the cadet showing the greatest courage and determination in the face of overwhelming odds. However, the recognition and respect now shown for Flipper did not take root until well after his death in 1940 at the age of 84.

At West Point, he was ostracised by white cadets. After graduation, he commanded black frontier troops, known as Buffalo Soldiers, with distinction.

Then, disastrously, he was charged with embezzling several thousand dollars while serving as quartermaster at Fort Davis, Texas.

He was almost certainly framed by white officers who openly hated him and wanted to punish him for his friendship with a white woman who was his riding companion. At his court martial, Flipper was cleared of theft but found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer for allegedly lying to his commanding officer and trying to cover up the missing money. His military career ended in disgrace with a dishonourable discharge.

As a civilian, Flipper prospered. He was a mining engineer and an accomplished linguist who translated complex documents relating to Spanish land grants. He became a newspaper editor, an assistant to the Secretary of the Interior and an essayist with surprisingly conservative views. But his lifelong efforts to remove the stain on his record were unavailing and he was buried in an unmarked grave in Atlanta. The army did not yield until 1976, when his discharge was upgraded to honourable, but his conviction was not overturned.

His body was exhumed and moved to his home town of Thomasville in Georgia, where he was buried with military honours and last December a post office was named after him. There is talk now of moving him again, this time to Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr Clinton has chosen to honour Flipper during Black History Month, when schools across America focus on both the familiar and little-known struggles against discrimination in the nation's past. Scholars believe it is the first time any presidential pardon has been granted posthumously.

Tom Carhart, a historian who researched the case, said: "Finally an ugly scar has been removed from our national record."



Flipper: General Colin Powell saw him as inspiration

French court orders return of fugitive killer to US

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

IRA EINHORN, the hippy guru convicted of murdering his girlfriend in 1977, should be extradited to the United States to face a retrial, a French court ruled yesterday.

But lawyers for Einhorn, 57, who was sentenced to life imprisonment *in absentia* in 1993, said they would launch an appeal to the French Supreme Court that could delay extradition proceedings for months. Einhorn will remain free while he waits for the appeal after the court in Bordeaux, southwest France, refused to remand him in custody.

Even if the Supreme Court ruling goes against him, he can ask the Prime Minister to refuse extradition. "I know he will try to escape again," said Mary Maddux, the sister of Helen Maddux, whose decomposed body was found in Einhorn's Philadelphia flat 22 years ago. "But the world is going to be very small for him now. Wherever he goes, there will be someone who will recognise him."

The Bordeaux court linked its ruling to the condition that Einhorn be granted a new and fair trial in America. Under French law, anyone sentenced *in absentia* has an automatic right to a retrial, although no such provision exists in American law. "The guarantees of a new trial that the American Government may give cannot be believed," Dominique Delthil, Einhorn's lawyer, said. "We still have some cards to play."

The fugitive spent 16 years on the run in Europe after he jumped bail in 1981. He was eventually traced to the village of Champagne-Mouton in southwest France, where he was living under the assumed name of Mallon with his Swedish wife, Annika Flodin.



Einhorn yesterday: fled US after murder trial

Driver accused of strangling Italian princess's husband

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI

POLICE in Mexico are questioning a family chauffeur in a murder inquiry launched after the Argentine husband of an Italian princess was found naked and strangled in his villa in the central state of Morelos.

The body of Reina Corbalán, 60, the husband of Princess Maria Beatrice of Savoy and son-in-law of Italy's last King, and a former UN diplomat, was discovered by the gardener at the couple's home in Cuernavaca, 55 miles outside Mexico City.

After ruling out suicide as a possibility, prosecutors ordered the arrest of the victim's chauffeur, Juan Manuel Barrera Pina, who is accused of murdering his employer.

The chief prosecutor, José Castilla Pombo, said that the motive for the crime was unclear, but the authorities have stopped looking for other suspects or accomplices.

Señor Corbalán, who was also a law lecturer at the University of the State of Morelos, had a son and daughter with Princess Beatrice.

The Princess's father, the former King Umberto II, was the last Italian monarch; he was forced from the throne and into exile in Portugal after a referendum in the wake of the Second World War.

Princess Beatrice moved to Mexico, where she married Señor Corbalán after her parents divorced.

□ **Acapulco:** The father of the Mexican World Cup football star Jorge Campos was kidnapped from a sports field named after his son when armed men forced him into a pick-up truck.

The men abducted Alvaro Campos, 65, on Wednesday, according to two relations. Jorge Campos was goalkeeper for Mexico's national team through two World Cups.

What drives a child to martyrdom?

A Kurdish girl's protest symbolises the idealism of every teenager, says **Vanora Bennett**

Wild-eyed, with flames pouring from her back, 14-year-old Nejla Kanteper staggered into Britain's consciousness this week after setting herself alight during a Kurdish nationalist protest. The faces of the London policemen who smothered the blaze ripping through her black commando gear were awestruck.

That awe had little to do with clichés about stolid Brits baffled by the melodrama of foreign politics. Instead, it was the shock felt by adults, with their risk-averse lives of rational decision and compromise, confronted by the limitless passions of youth.

Self-immolation is the most extreme form of this passion, in which all the metaphors used to describe a state of mind — "fired up", "alight", "burning" — fuse with reality. But whether they burn, starve or shoot themselves, teenagers have always been the likeliest members of any society to adopt extreme causes and sacrifice their lives to them.

Less bound than their elders into life's mundane detail, teenagers are idealistic enough to believe that their dreams will come true if they only fight hard enough for them. In different ways, the young democracy protesters at Tiananmen Square, the Israeli student Yigal Amir, who shot the Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, in 1995 in an attempt to derail the Middle East peace process, the boy soldiers of Liberia, Chechnya and Cambodia, and Jan Palach, the Czech youth who set fire to himself in Prague in a political protest in 1969, all obeyed the same drive towards youthful martyrdom.

Only very occasionally do adults behave with such absolute commitment to abstraction and choose martyrdom. If they do, it is likely to be when their social or ethnic group is rebelling against a hostile ruling culture — as with the Kurds and their Turkish overlords. In such a struggle even adults, collectively, are put in the position of adolescents fighting to establish their autonomy from "parent" rulers.

Adult Kurds have immolated themselves in Moscow and southeastern Turkey over the past year. A Tibetan set fire to himself in Delhi last year in protest against the visit of a general from China, which occupies Tibet. During the Vietnam War, scores of monks burnt themselves in defence of religious freedom.

So, far from being appalled at Nejla's protest at the arrest of the separatist leader Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish community is delighted. A spokesman at the Kurdish community centre in Stoke Newington, North London, said the teenager, who is being treated for severe burns, had demonstrated great bravery and commitment to the cause.

"All Kurdish people are feeling very badly right now and each one feels like a bomb ready to go off," the spokesman said. "Everyone feels like her. There doesn't seem much point in living life, because we feel we are not treated as humans with proper rights. Everyone is ready to do as she did."

In the West, there are few governments so authoritarian or conflicts so all-embracing that they will unite entire social groups. With less to protest about in societies that are free and flexible, there is not much scope for martyrdom.

But there are, of course, still groups with passionately held views. Nuclear arms have always been a cause of deep public unease; in the 1980s anti-apartheid protests led to a boycott of South African goods; the 1990s have been an era of Green activism and animal rights campaigns, some of them violent; last year, the animal rights activist Barry Horne came close to death in a hunger strike. But the lack of authoritarian responses from the State has taken the heat out of these actions.

Nevertheless, there is no reason to suppose that teenagers here are more sedate than those in other parts of the world. Young British adults are full of the same energy, enthusiasm, idealism — and lack of boundaries — that set adolescents from other parts of the world literally on fire. The only difference is that, here, they are would-be martyrs without a cause.

Our consumer society does its best to channel the limitless energy of its teenagers to its own profitable ends: into the worship of sports or entertainment stars, or towards an endlessly changing fashion scene, whose gods must be placated with regular purchases.

In the West, the language of youth culture has all the violence of teenage martyrdom elsewhere. But here young extremists are fitness fanatics, *Star Trek* fanatics or fashion fanatics. When our teenagers weep, scream and fight they are likely to be at football matches or pop concerts. Their martyrs are dead rock or film stars. And whichever subculture inspires their adoration, it is likely to make them work harder in order to buy the tickets, posters, or shoes that are its badges.

Even when Western adults grumble about the excesses of adolescence, they are generally happy with the status quo. Pin-up culture is a safety-valve: adoring Robbie Williams and laughing at Dad's Sinatra records is a harmless way for a teenager to establish himself as part of an autonomous social group.

What makes us deeply uneasy are more aggressive manifestations of teenagers' desire for a cause of their own — their longing for an intangible "something more", which escapes adult control and which adults see as collective madness.

In the Sixties there was a decade-long rollercoaster of youth rebellion, viewed with suspicious dread by the adults of the time. Later came the appearance of sinister religious movements: suicide cults such as the Branch Davidians or the Heavenly Gate movement, destructive organisations like Aum Shinrikyo, or church groups such as the Moonies and Scientologists. Young people flocked to join them, turning their backs on mainstream culture and forming tight-knit, obsessive commando groups hostile to adult society.

Such cults lure young people who are bewildered by "a time of transition, when one is ill at ease about the future and questioning the meaning of life and the next steps to take," according to Dr Robert Jay Lifton, quoted in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The energy of youth can take a still more dangerous turn when teenagers turn in on themselves — trying to drug, drink or diet themselves to death. The big questions of life and death, which harassed adults are too busy to spend much time contemplating, too often drive their children, with their sense of existing in a vast tragedy, to suicide. While suicide accounts for just 1 per cent of all deaths in this country, among young people between 15 and 24 the suicide rate is 21 per cent.

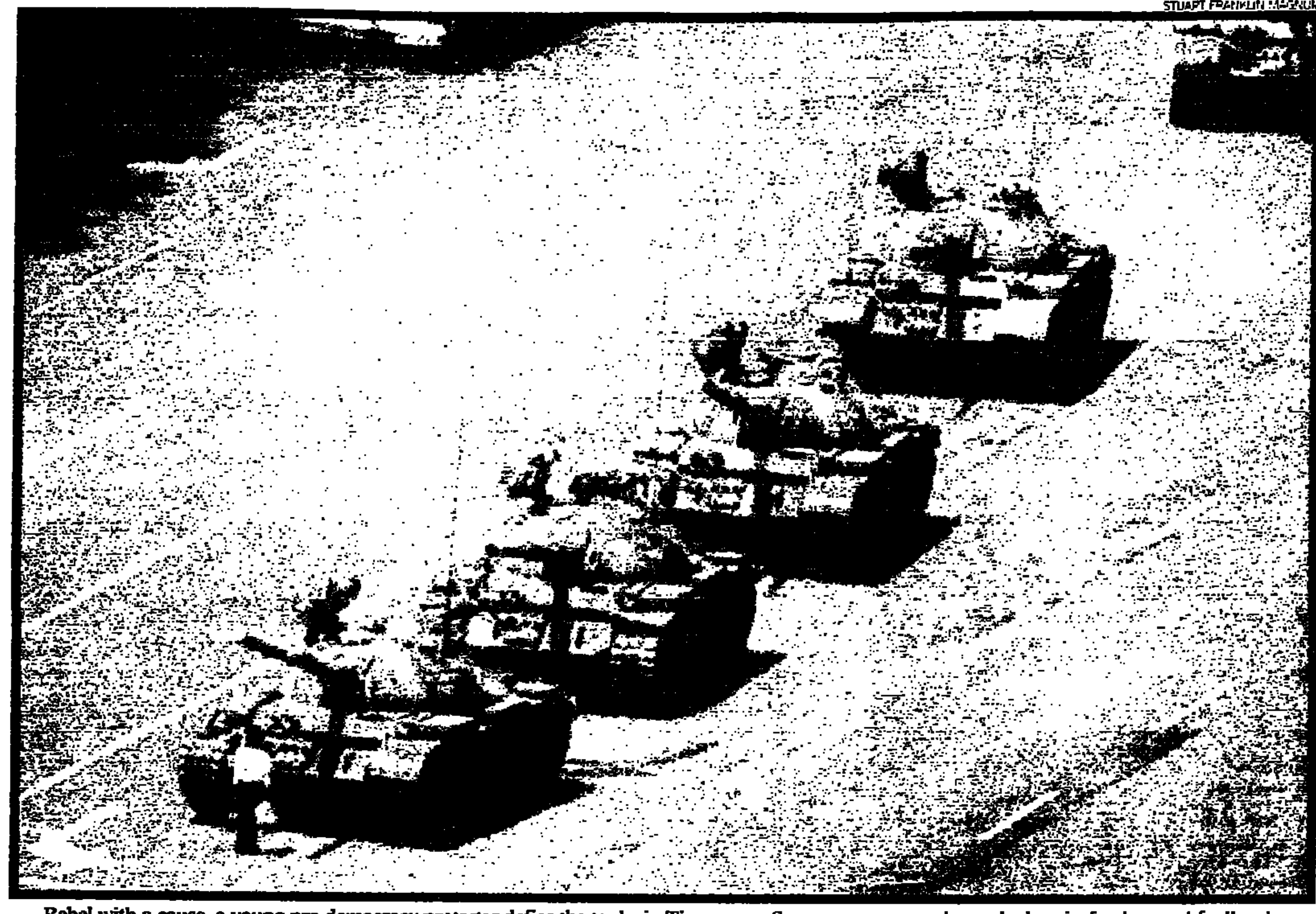
So Nejla Kanteper is not alone. Her adolescent peer group stretches across the world, stalked by heroes, villains, mystics and revolutionaries. The terrifying lives and thoughts of teenagers unite them; all that divides them is finding a suitable cause.

Adults watching adolescents struggle to make sense of these larger-than-life agonies can only hope that the saving graces of irony and proportion come early to them, and meanwhile that the tormented human being growing up beside them recognises the wisdom of George Bernard Shaw's dictum: "Martyrdom (is) the only way in which a man can become famous without ability."

Agonising protest: Nejla Kanteper

'All Kurdish people are feeling bad right now. Each one of us feels like a bomb that is ready to go off'

STUART FRANKLIN / MAGNUM



Rebel with a cause, a young pro-democracy protester defies the tanks in Tiananmen Square: young people can be heroic, fearless and foolhardy

Will the British ever learn how to loosen up?

The growing trend of dressing down on Friday leaves many workers wondering what to wear. **Nick Foulkes** ponders the problem


TELEGRAPH COLOUR LIBRARY

American import: dress-down Friday confirms the patronising notion that an employee is only what he or she wears

The cult of casualness has struck deep into our national psyche with the arrival of the dress-down Friday.

Reactionaries view the concept as further evidence of the dumbing-down of our cultural life. Progressives welcome dressing down as a vital part of the on-message way of life. For them it is part of a long-overdue loosening-up of the British way — an integral piece of the "Hi, call me Tony" approach.

I do not like dress-down Friday. I find it condescending. Rather than encouraging individuality, it confirms the patronising notion that an employee is only what he or she wears. While it may purport to free the individual and initiate a more relaxed corporate culture, this is just pop-psychological eyewash, peddled by the paperback prophets of our people-management-made-easy corporate age, where people talk of interpersonal skills rather than getting on with each other. The mandatory wearing of chinos and polo shirts to mark a Friday is just as restrictive as any other orthodoxy.

It is an American import that has been grafted on to British life without any thought. We whinge at interference from Brussels: had dress-down Friday been an EU directive, we would have made a national stand against it complete with jingoistic tabloid headlines. However, coming as it does from across the Atlantic, it is just another chunk of American cultural hegemony that we have allowed ourselves to swallow whole.

The British are not good at dressing down. For many years the national stereotype was a man in a pinstriped suit, furled umbrella and bowler hat.

By contrast, the American stereotype was a man in violently checked trousers, a floral Hawaiian shirt and baseball cap. Stereotypes, however crude, sometimes spring from a kernel of truth. Americans tend to look foolish when they try to ape British formality, so why should we think that we are able to copy American casualness?

The suit is not such a terrible thing. It is an overall for the white-collar worker. But then nor is it a bad thing to get out of it once in a while. Jeremy Hackett, chairman of the eponymous outfitters, says the key to the Friday look is "to make more effort, not less". And for many British men, making an effort with their clothes is just that: an effort.

> The key to the look is to make more effort not less

The English can either be formal or dishevelled. Dress-down Friday leaves them confused. Because the British man has never been much good at cultivating a casual style of dressing, dress-down Friday is leading to the establishment of a third wardrobe that bridges work and leisure.

Brian Lishak, of that bastion of sartorial rectitude Huntsman, the leading Savile Row tailor, says that people are not yet quite sure what form this wardrobe should take. "Customers who have spoken to me about dressing down are not entirely happy about the practice. They feel uncomfortable because they are unaware of the sort of clothes they ought to wear."

"In the United States," whence Lishak has just returned, "the practice has been in operation for longer; the practice with senior executives is a blazer or sports coat and slacks rather than jeans and sweatshirts." Thus with the establishment of a tertiary wardrobe comes the inevitable arrival of another, more subtle sartorial hierarchy, of the kind that dress-down Friday was intended to sweep away. Perhaps it is time for the return of the saxony suit. Relaxed without being slovenly, the saxony was the interstitial suit par excellence. At its best it captures the insouciant elegance of the Duke of Windsor, a man who can hardly ever have been accused of putting in a hard day at the office. "The old practice here was for customers to come to town on a Friday in a saxony suit, a cloth that is akin to a flannel," says Lishak. "An alternative was a cheviot, a kind of cross between a full tweed and a worsted suiting. Customers would wear these up to town on a Friday so they were properly attired when they went down to the country."

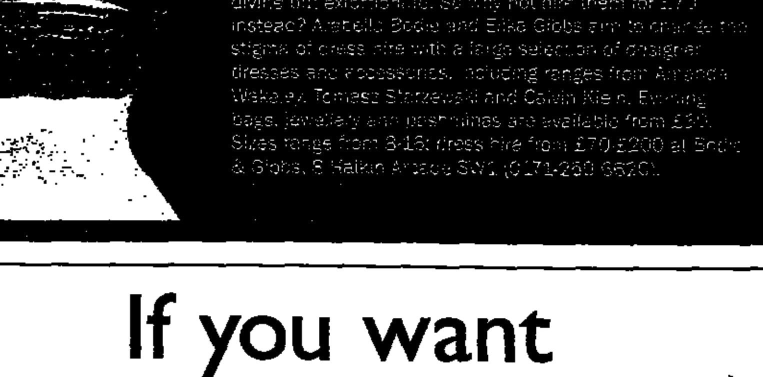
It is doubtless with an eye to establishing a dress-down Friday uniform for today's elite that Lishak has introduced a range of checked tweeds to mark Huntsman's 150th anniversary this year. Although they look like heavy shooting tweeds, they are in fact 14oz cloths, not far from the weight of many standard suitings.

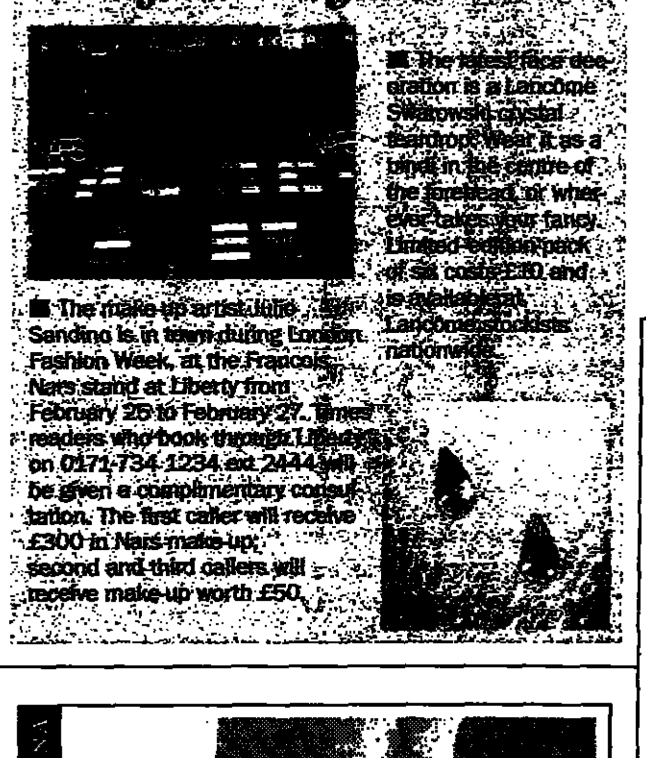
It is folly to pretend that life is not loosening up, even at Huntsman. Although members of staff wear suits (especially on Fridays), they no longer wear starched collars.

However, it would be nice to think that we could find a British way of assimilating dress-down Friday rather than mimicking America.

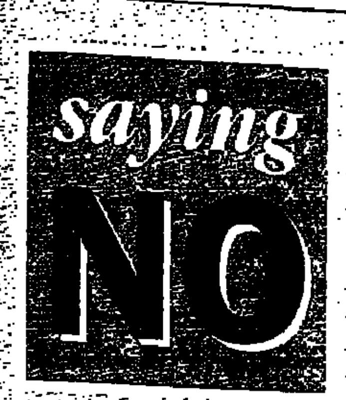
● *Jane Shilling is away*







Teenagers in turmoil



In the final extract from her new book, child psychotherapist **Asha Phillips** looks at the trials of adolescence and why parents should be strong and flexible


Teenage angst: conflict with parents is inevitable as children struggle to create a new identity for themselves

The early adolescent years, from about 12 to 14, are a period of great change. Physical growth is more rapid than at any other time, and sexuality enters the frame. Parents often complain of feeling that their child has become a stranger in their home, forgetting that the child may feel quite a stranger to himself. Hormones are raging, he may feel tearful, elated, excited. There is an enormous preoccupation with the body and its sensations, and with appearances.

Adolescents are often tearful and, if they are close enough to their parents to speak to them, will communicate their bewilderment: "I'm sad,"; "I feel lonely"; "Nobody likes me at school"; "Everybody laughs at me", followed by "but I don't know why". Even if all the evidence is to the contrary — friends telephoning, the child being admired and his company sought — these feelings of insecurity and isolation are real.

Another puzzle is how different he can feel from one day to the next. His moods and self-image sway like branches in the wind. And because the adolescent fluctuates between being quite mature and being infantile, parents get wrong-footed. If you talk to the young child in him, the adolescent may criticise you for being patronising, for not trusting him. If you treat him as an adult, he may feel pushed and uncared for. Whichever aspect of him you talk to, it seems that you fail to take the other into account. This unpredictability makes everyone in the family feel that they are walking on eggshells. The issue of saying "no" and setting limits becomes delicate, and many families feel that they are failing.

During this time of change and insecurity, our growing child may feel out of control. It is particularly important that we should not be invaded and taken over by the same feelings as him. When he cried as a baby, you could just hold and soothe him. The teenager will show his upset quite differently, at times becoming angry, provocative, fearful, sad, confused. Sometimes we can help by talking to him. But, more subtly, it is the home setting — the environment that we provide for him — that will make him feel safe. Our ability to make rules, to stick to them, to have a sense of what is appropriate, will contribute to how much he feels that he can venture forth from a secure base.

The key is to be strong and flexible. This helps to give teenagers confidence. Parents have to accommodate new aspects of their child, to readjust their picture of who he is.

It can be a great source of stability for the adolescent to know that his parents feel confident in him throughout these changes. We can help by welcoming our children's search for identity and the many guises that they may take before they find what suits them, secure in the knowledge that what is at the core of their personality is good.

It is hard to believe this when your teenager seems rebellious, dirty or antisocial. However, if this positive vision of himself is what he sees reflected in your eyes, it will boost his self-esteem and help him to make wise choices. This does not mean that you should be blind to problems and difficulties, or adopt a blackmailing stance which affirms that if you trust him, he cannot let you down. I am stressing a basic faith in your child which comes from the confidence that you have done your best for him, and that now he must start venturing out on his own.

We have seen how structure, rules and boundaries make children feel safe. During adolescence, rules are often fought against and limits considered frustrating or even crippling. Does this mean that we should give them up? The adolescent needs to fly, to break the rules. Again we are faced with a balancing act.

The need is twofold. First, the adolescent needs parents to struggle against, to have the row with. Just as the baby may need to kick against your hand to get a measure of how far he can stretch, so the adolescent needs a degree of resistance to explore his reach. It is important to allow that and not to try too hard to be the "good" parent when what he wants is to fight a "bad" parent. He may argue with you as a way of finding out what he really thinks; he may reject your point of view in order to look for his own. Insisting that your children agree with you, or recognise that you are on their side, does not help them to venture out into the world. Having a conflict and resolving it will build up their strength.

> Activities pursued for a brief thrill can take on a grim face

Secondly, there are times when you need to say "no" firmly. Sometimes the child really wants you to restrict him, he is frightened or worried about something but does not want to lose face in front of others, or to be disappointed in his image of himself as the adventurous one.

When adolescents speak with passion and conviction, we imagine them to be strong and determined, forgetting how vulnerable they are. It is the fluctuating state of their feelings that frequently bewilders us — and them. There is a constant oscillation from closeness to distance within the family.

Many teenagers need space to be on their own, to find their place in the peer group by themselves. For some it is easier to do this by cutting themselves off from the family for a while. From the parents' point of view, the child who used to come home from school and want to be around you, watch television and have a snack and a drink now goes straight to his room and disappears until he is called. The telephone rings continually, or he wants to be out with his friends. Many parents feel terribly excluded, but bearing this phase is crucial to the child's development.

It may be difficult to decide what is ordinary rebellion and what is pathology. Generally, however, the adolescent who needs extra help will alarm you deeply. The daughter who comes home with blue hair and a pierced nose but is her usual cheery (or grumpy) self will be less worrying than the one who looks the same but has no sense of humour, no *joie de vivre*.

Most teenagers indulge in a certain amount of delinquency. It could be smoking marijuana, being slightly promiscuous (in terms of numbers rather than full sexual encounters), lying to their parents, defying the rules. These are just the ordinary provocations of adolescence. You need to worry when activities pursued for a brief thrill take on a grim face, when the teenager seems to want to obliterate feeling or need. Then the pursuit of delinquency takes on an addictive quality.

If you sense that your child faces catastrophic anxieties, or you fear for his health or even his life, as in the cases of drug addiction or anorexia, you must seek advice. There is no shame in seeking help — indeed, it should be a mark of courage.

In adolescence, just as in childhood, there will be painful aspects to the parent-child relationship. If you avoid them, cover them up or repress them, you are storing up trouble. For instance, a person who never experimented in adolescence may become envious of his or her own teenager, or identify with him and long to have a wild time. This could lead to the parent having an affair. Or the parent may have developed a rather secretive rebelliousness when young, not openly challenging his or her parents, and persisted with it for years. It is easier to deal with the difficulty at the time.

Adolescence is a time of transformation, and for parents this growing up sometimes feels like a terrible loss — of their role and identity as well as of their little child. The distance between parent and child can feel like a huge gulf. But it is this struggle to be different, to be separate, which eventually gives the teenager the confidence and self-esteem to be strong and creative in the world and to make positive relationships with others. It is also your blessing and encouragement of their freedom to grow up which makes them wish to be close to you.

● Saying No *by Asha Phillips is published on March 1 by Faber, £8.99. Times readers can order it for only £7.99 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 329454.*

WHY TEENAGERS WANT RULES

HOW do adolescents view the issue of setting limits? I spoke to many young teenagers about this book and was surprised how clear they were that they expected and wanted their parents to establish rules. I believe their opinions to be representative.

They wanted their parents to prevent them from smoking and drinking, saying simply "well, they're bad for you, aren't they?" This did not mean that they would comply with their parents' wishes, but it was the stand that they hoped parents would take.

They also felt that many rules were sensible. For instance, if you ask to be told where he is going and when he will be back, you are giving him freedom within a setting. The reason for such a rule is usually to ensure that he is safe, or that he can be contacted in case of an emergency. These concerns give children the feeling that they are cared about. They may well fight you, accusing you of not trusting them, but sticking to your requirement despite their protestations gives them the feeling that you are prepared to put up a fight for their welfare — that you will not let them put themselves at risk. This gives a tremendous boost to a child's basic feelings of self-esteem and security.

The teenagers whom I spoke to also believed in establishing rules early. Examples included doing homework and helping at home. They gave warning of the dangers of bribery: "If you pay someone to do something, they will want it every time."

Although adolescents seem not to value their parents' opinions, they are very sensitive to what is said. They are wondering whether you like the person they are developing into. For instance, they may think that your taste in clothes is "sad", but if you criticise a style that they like, they are cut to the quick.

One of my 13-year-old daughter's friends told me how she bought a new dress that she thought was lovely. When she first wore it, her father, mildly disapproving, said "what's that?" She never wore the dress again.

Incision by Issey, gauze by Gaultier

It was bad enough when all you had to worry about when you were rushed in for emergency rhinoplasty was whether the ambulance would take you to Dr Steven Hoefflin's surgery. Here, you might wake up four hours later to discover that "Doc Hollywood"— at the insistence of Sylvester Stallone — had fitted you with one of Michael Jackson's discarded noses.

But the patient experience has just become even more stressful. Now, as the ambulance pulls away, your loved ones will be left standing on the doorstep not knowing for certain whether the way they saw you last — blue shirt, navy chinos, brogues — will clash with the hospital's designer colour scheme.

That's the kind of pressure you will be under if you check in to London's first designer hospital, opening in Harley Street. With an interior designed by Kelly Hoppen, it will "provide for patients who require nursing attendance but who want the surroundings and service that only a top hotel can provide".

Hoppen promises that it will even keep the phone numbers of everyone who is anyone, so "if you want Ben de Lisi to show you his new collection", he can. ("Nurse, we are losing this patient. If there's still no improvement, we may have to expose him to next month's *Vogue*. Keep his relatives informed.")

Of course, the designer hospital is just a step on the way to designer surgery, and couture houses have been sharpening their scalpels with a view to offering you these signature operations:

MAN ON THE SIDE

JOE JOSEPH

Issey Miyake — a more holistic approach to facelifts and tummy tucks. The Miyake method avoids making any incision but instead tightens up the slack skin around the forehead by creasing it into a concertina patter, thereby eliminating loose skin and creating an interesting facial design feature.

Gucci — recently regarded as a surgical style favoured only by ageing Monaco playboys, the Gucci treatment is now all the rage among younger patients, who were impressed by appendectomy operations that kept the scar hidden even when wearing Gucci's lowest velvet hipsters. This year patients will be sporting a funkier, 1970s psychedelic look, in which the incision scar follows a prominent wavy line across the midriff. Instead of using stitches, the suture is secured with interlocking gold Gs.

Jean Paul Gaultier — specialises in novelty breast enlargements. Women unnerved by scare stories about silicone leakage associated with traditional operations have two stainless steel conical peaks inserted into their breasts instead, thereby guaranteeing a perfect fit for Gaultier's conical bras.

Donna Karan — operations that manage to be both timelessly stylish and modern at the same time. But nobody would pretend that Karan's clinical couture comes cheap. Anxious to dispel the impression held by some members of the British Medical Association that she lives in an ivory tower, Donna has also created a diffusion DKNY range of more affordable, off-the-peg operations.

Prada — can always be relied on to come up with the season's must-have treatment. This year it has taken the handbag concept into the next millennium by surgically inserting a zippered pouch into the chest cavity; no fashion-conscious woman will dare to walk down Sloane Street without this one.

Ralph Lauren — Ralph brings his Wild West pioneer look to Harley Street. Cysts are just gouged out with a sheath knife by a surgeon dressed in denims and a red gingham shirt (both available from the current Polo range and chargeable to your room bill, though not claimable against BUPA). The wound is then sterilised with a splash of bourbon. Although deceptively simple, such treatments are among the most expensive available in Harley Street, mostly because of the built-in cost of medical negligence insurance.

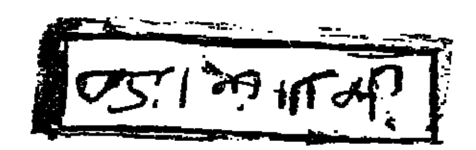
Paul Smith — the designer to turn to if you want treatment that is classic with a twist. Thus, while Smith favours traditional cures such as leeches, he will dress the wound in a 24oz, Italian, 100 per cent Pima cotton lint — creaseproof to make life easier for the business traveller — with a row of functioning buttonholes along one edge to allow the nurse to monitor regularly how the wound is healing.

Ben de Lisi — his signature facelift is similar to those of other Harley Street designers, except for the stylish innovation that, with Ben, the skin is stretched on the bias.

Chanel — offers a discreet but chic procedure by which unsightly varicose veins are artfully reconfigured to create the effect of the patient's legs being covered by an alluring pattern of carefully spaced Cs.

Comme des Garçons — Rei Kawakubo carries her passion for humour and asymmetry into the operating theatre. Thus, while Comme des Garçons' surgeons are happy to perform conventional hip replacements, patients frequently wake from their anaesthetic to find that their new hip has been amusingly attached to their left shoulder.

The patients? They are so thrilled, they are uttering their very own Hippocratic oaths.



A North Sea change for the better

It's time to update Britishness, says Douglas Alexander, MP

In less than 100 days, Scotland will have its first parliament in 300 years. When we were last offered an assembly, in 1979, the majority in favour was narrow and hesitant. By 1997 it had become massive, and confident. This North Sea change has been interpreted by some as the primal reassertion of ancient nationhood, a *Braveheart* flourish. But it is recent British history, as much as old Scottish passions, which has driven the change. Margaret Thatcher is more responsible for devolution than Mel Gibson. It is important that all of us understand this process for it affects the central question of politics — do we argue over ideas, or clash over identities?

During the 1980s, the great constitutional question became the existence of Scotland within Britain. Could Scottish nationhood, which had survived since 1707, endure when a British Government set about what Scots saw as the systematic undermining of basic Scottish institutions?

It was a debate that spilt out of the academy and on to the street. The popular Scottish novelist William McIlvaney reflected this mood in 1987, arguing: "If we allow her (Mrs Thatcher) to continue, she will remove from the word Scottish any meaning other than the geographical. We will either defend our identity or lose it."

Those words came to my mind the following year, when I listened as a student to Mrs Thatcher's "Sermon on the Mound". Her address to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was intended to connect her beliefs to those of Scots, but it only confirmed her distance. Even in such a Presbyterian setting, my mood would have brightened had I known that, in time, the same building would house the first meeting of a Scottish parliament.

Its establishment is the consequence of a victory for ideas — the modernised left-of-centre values which prevailed at the last election and which seek to empower the citizen through new institutions. But victory for our ideas has seen others, such as the Scottish National Party, attempt to limit politics to the mere assertion of national identity.

Now the central constitutional question has become the future of Britain itself. In the coming elections in Scotland and Wales we must fight to affirm that the values which bind our nations together can triumph over a nationalism that would break us apart.

Arthur Schlesinger has argued that countries break up when they fail to give ethnically diverse peoples compelling reasons to see themselves as part of the same country. In the age of Empire, when Scots enjoyed the prosperity and prospects that came with worldwide opportunities, there was no desire in Scotland to reject everything that was British. In the first half of this century, when Britain was united by shared purpose, there was no desire to abandon our loyalty to Britain. We stood together to defeat fascism, and worked together to build a welfare state.

The contemporary question is whether, in an age of global change, the case for the Union has weakened. For two centuries, the argument for the Union was characterised by deference to traditional British institutions from the monarchy downwards. Yet, as Tom Nairn has correctly diagnosed, those ancient, unreformed institutions have ceased to command the loyalty they once did. The old Unionism of Army and King is inadequate to meet the challenge of the new separatism. But, just as importantly, it is also inadequate to meet the challenge of framing a modern identity for an inclusive, multicultural Britain.

What unites modern Britain is not, at root, a set of institutions alone. It is the depth of shared ideals. We are all enhanced by the sharing of values and experiences. We would be diminished by a retreat from a generous vision that celebrates all the people of these islands. Britain no longer finds its values expressed just by marching in step under the same military colours, or enjoying the benefits of an integrated market. There are other bodies which come closer to embodying modern Britain's sense of itself. The National Health Service, itself a victory for progressive ideas, is a legitimate focus for national pride. And everyone understands that National means British.

> Everyone knows that the national in NHS is British

The challenge now is to establish and sustain institutions in the same progressive spirit which reflect both our diverse identities and new locations of power. It is time to acknowledge honestly that we all have different layers of loyalty — to our families, and to our communities, as well as to our country — that express different parts of our identity.

For 18 years, Conservatives seemed to deny this. They appeared to demand that Scots choose between being Scottish or British. It is a demand echoed by William Hague's one-dimensional "British way". Yet part of the reason that they now have not a single seat north of the border is that they failed to recognise that, for my generation, Scottishness is a matter of pride, and worthy of expression. It is undeniable, yet it need not be exclusive.

What neither the Tories nor the Nationalists seem able to reconcile themselves to is that pride in Scottishness or Welshness does not require the eradication of Britishness. It is a crashing *non sequitur* to say that because Britain is diverse, Britain must break up. The progressive spirit celebrates inclusion, and animates our constitutional reforms; it is a warm wind of change. Pulling a society together is a worthier ambition than pulling a country apart because politics is about more than identities. It is also about ideals.

The author, along with Gordon Brown, MP, published New Scotland, New Britain, *this week for the Smith Institute.*

Mary Ann Sieghart is away.



"'COURSE, I WAS QUITE PREPARED TO GET THEM OUT MYSELF..."

The Kurd Instinct

When the mobs begin to howl, Mr Cook fidgets for the trigger

Simon Jenkins

Bomb Turkey now. Let's not wait. Flatten Ankara. Tomahawk the Bosphorus, take out Izmir. If we can bomb Serbia for the Kosovans and bomb President Saddam Hussein for the Iraqi Kurds, we can surely bomb Turkey for their mountain brothers. Why wait until "more people die" or until "Robin Cook's patience is exhausted"? New Labour bombs sooner. It bombs for peace. Thatcher bombed but Blair bombs bigger.

What hypocrites we are. We showed not the slightest interest in Kosovo until a violent faction of the Kosovan separatist movement began killing people. Then suddenly Kosovan autonomy is an "issue of international security and human rights". Likewise with the Kurds. Only when a violent minority takes its violence to the ambassadorial ghettos of Western Europe is every newspaper alert to the cause, every radio sounding the grievance, every talk show fawning for a spokesman. As Michael Heseltine said of urban policy in the 1980s, "It takes a bomb".

The path ahead is predictable. The Turks will show scant respect for Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader, largely because of the violence he has visited on Turks and on the many moderate Kurds who now permeate Turkish society. His PKK guerrillas will then retaliate. The Turks will hit back in turn, attacking Kurdish areas and "cleansing" villages.

Already we can hear the early murmur of the chancellery banshees, of Western diplomats and politicians wailing "Something must be done". The adjectival ratchet will begin. Turkish behaviour will become "unacceptable", "deplorable", and "involving severe consequences". Robin Cook's eyes will bulge. Madeleine Albright's clichés will burst a blood vessel. Intervention always needs heroes and villains. Someone else's terrorist always makes a hero. "Freedom fighters" look good on television.

Sooner or later Mr Cook and Ms Albright will demand negotiation on the future of Kurdistan, and summon all sides to Lancaster House or Rambouillet. Photogenic ships and bombers will rush hither and thither at vast expense. Participants will be threatened with "laser-guided pinpoint surgical strikes" if they refuse to do as they are told. Unlucky troops will find themselves committed to "peacekeeping" for life, as in Bosnia and Kuwait. Lucky ones will get to leave with the camera crews, as from Beirut, Somalia and Rwanda.

In this newspaper last week, the Foreign Secretary chided me for asking "what on earth we are doing" meddling in the internal affairs of sovereign states. In Sierra Leone, he said, Britain was "making every effort to support those who are trying to prevent innocent civilians being murdered". In Kosovo, Britain was "trying to help the parties to a protracted conflict find a peaceful solution that prevents further ethnic massacres". That is a description of a policy, not a justification. The only justification Mr Cook offered was a double negative, that "to ignore what is happening in places like Sierra Leone and Kosovo would not meet any definition of a responsible foreign policy".

What is that definition? We still have none. What are Britain's criteria for politico-military intervention? To imply that anyone not signed up to the present sabre-rattling is "ignoring" a massacre is mere point-scoring. I could say that Mr Cook's obsession with sanctions is "ignoring" the deaths of some of the world's poorest people. I could plead with him to send half what he is splashing out on military adventures as humanitarian relief to the many conflicts that he is "ignoring".

Nobody can tell which massacres are fit for Britain's moral crusade and which are not. Why Sierra Leone and Kosovo and not the Congo, Sudan, Eritrea or Afghanistan? If protracted conflict leading to murder is the relevant criterion, why are British forces "ignoring" the Basques, the Chechens, the Punjabis, the Sri Lankans, the Burmese, and the Indonesians? At least Palmerston built a proper empire. Mr Cook's moral empire is that of the fidget, its colonies as unpredictable as they are transient.

Let us return to the Kurds. On Mr Cook's definition, they are ideally placed for intervention. Here is a classic "protracted conflict" astride Nato's vital frontier with the inflamed Middle East. Britain has a historic role in "Kurdistan" as party to the Great War settlement which promised 20 million Kurds their own state. Britain ratted on that promise when it seized the oil in Kurdish territory in northern Iraq. Yet Britain lent tacit support to Iraqi-Kurdish separatism in the years after the Gulf War and today has troops maintaining a "no-fly" zone over Kurdish land. What could be more glorious than for Tony Blair to take on the last unfinished business of 20th-century statecraft and grant the PKK its wish?

The Kurdish conflict also qualifies as a venue for potential ethnic massacre. The Turkish suppression of the PKK and that movement's bloody retaliation scream out for a Lancaster House conference. Turkey may be a sovereign state, but then so are Iraq and Yugoslavia. The Turkish Government may be elected and enjoy popular support against the PKK. But the same is true in Yugoslavia against the KLA. The Turkish leader, Bulent Ecevit, claims that moderate Kurds are appalled by the PKK, but President Milosevic claims the same of moderate Kosovans and the KLA. There are plenty of differences between Mr Ecevit and Mr Milosevic, but they share a determination not to see their countries dismembered. If British bombs are meant to bring the wild Mr Milosevic to his senses, how much more plausible that they will do the same for the sensible Mr Ecevit?

Each separatist conflict is peculiar to itself. But each evinces the same ferocity in nation states and their dissident minorities. That is why outsiders do well to steer clear. Minorities so easily steal the thunder of majorities, as do violent minorities within minorities. British Unionists need no telling of this. The continuing stranglehold of the Provisional IRA on Ulster's so-called peace process is a classic of "minoritarianism".

The Turks have succeeded in keeping PKK violence contained within the politics of a hesitantly democratic state. Yet by reacting violently to the arrest of their leader, the PKK has been able to command worldwide attention. Such violence instantly engages world sympathy and intervention. Already the Foreign Office is "urging" Turkey to try Mr Ocalan "in strict accordance with the rule of law and due process". And what if it does not? Thus do all interventions begin. This weekend the KLA negotiators at Rambouillet hope to finesse the RAF into giving air cover for their attacks on Serb targets, a ludicrous trap into which Britain has fallen. But if the KLA, why not the PKK? Britain used to send humanitarian aid to the world's troublespots. It now sends high explosive.

Such politico-military intervention is image-led. It does not count votes or laws, only bodies. Nor is it concerned with outcomes. As those immersed in conflicts round the globe are discovering, the new world order has the attention span of a gnat. Mr Cook's "responsible foreign policy of a civilised nation" is tunnel vision, mostly television. The camera can be a powerful agent of awareness. As a force for good it stimulates great charity, but it can also induce an obsessional Something Must Be Done.

Such macho morality can handle only so much outrage at a time. Its ethical agenda is full of Kosovo just now. But keep up the pressure, Kurdistan, the West has you on hold. Don't stop the violence or we will lose interest. Every burning embassy lights the yellow brick road to the Wizard of Cook. Outside intervention will not bring victory. The Kurds will no more win than will the Kosovans, but by golly Britain will have fun at their expense. As for 3,000 British troops now embarking for Kosovo, they had better start thinking Anatolia. Kosovo will soon pall. Mount Ararat beckons. To your shelters, Turks.

comment@the-times.co.uk

'The notion that English is going to the dogs is no more than defecation by a miniature poodle'

Philip Howard

Letters to the Ed are the global e-mail of the scribbling and spluttering classes. The words: "I shall write a letter to *The Times*" still rise bubbling to the lips, not just of choleric old clubmen these days, but of all sorts, colours and sexes of the opinionated, didactic and witty. Thank Hermes, God of Disputation.

But the correspondence that we are running (and running) about the intimations of old age has missed the point, so far. Evidence of growing older is not merely that editors are looking younger every day. Nor is it that one needs long-handled clippers designed for trimming the edges of lawns in order to cut one's toenails. Nor that the only reason that you still do not need glasses is that you now drink straight out of the bottle. Nor that you puff when climbing the stairs. It is, of course, that you think that the world is going to the dogs.

To think this, you do not have to be of an age at which your birthday cake has become a fire hazard. Young fogeys still in their teens make a good living and pull the birds by pretending to believe it. And it may even be true of some things, such as the London Underground, English cricket/football/rugby/athletics and the Olympic movement, all of which have within living memory deteriorated from fine institutions to bad jokes. But the notion that English is going to the dogs is no more than defecation by a miniature poodle. The miniature turn your back on such crap, she does a poodle. And the notion that the young cannot speak or write properly any more is another wooden-headed language myth.

Members of the history society of New Hall, Cambridge (Queen of the Colleges), whom I had the honour to address this week, speak and write far better and more entertainingly than we did at their age. They also do it with more flair. Perhaps they cannot spell "eschschol(t)zia" and "diarrhoea" without pausing for a flicker of thought [NB Fiona, please make sure that we spell these correctly]. But spelling is a trivial, mechanical accomplishment. If Cambridge is really so concerned about the alleged decline of undergraduate literacy, it should introduce a spelling exam into the Tripos. But I bet that it won't.

The complaints that English is going to the dogs from some mythical Golden Age have been made since at least the 17th century. Jonathan Swift, like some modern reactionary doomsters, connected the doggishness with the immorality of the young. "Licentiousness which entered with the Restoration" had infected our morals and corrupted our language. But by any objective measurement, standards of English have improved. In 1850 in England and Wales 31 per cent of bridegrooms and 46 per cent of brides could not write their names in the marriage register. Now all the young get a secondary education, and a third of the relevant age-group get a tertiary education. Maybe they are not all Shakespeares. And of course I was meeting an academic elite at New Hall. But those who complain that the young are taking English to the dogs are either snobbish (concerned about the spread of vulgar "working-class" accents, ie, not cut-crystal Yaah drawls), or they are frightened of change and jealous of the young.

They are also unkind to dogs. Shakespeare is responsible, I think, for this slander on silly woofers. I think that he was (predictably and sensibly) a cat lover. You may believe that Shakespeare was anything you want, and find evidence for it in his work. Rosalind, Othello and Macbeth provide the first examples in English of the metaphor that throwing something to the dogs is to rubbish it. Homer and the New Testament have kinder images of dogs as friends of man. Dogs in literature were originally scavengers. Until Argos, the ancient hound of Odysseus. He is the first creature to recognise his master back from the war after 20 years. He wags his tail and dies. Tears to eyes.

Shakespeare in Love, which is a good film, in spite of being nominated for Oscars, makes this connection, as well as many others. A cat has a pad-on role, along with John Webster, who was much obsessed with death. Shakespeare hated dogs. Perhaps he was bitten as a Stratford boy. Some other unhappy encounter may explain his fondness for the anti-canine metaphor that things are going to the dogs. But in his working life he was traduced for over-writing, literary flatulence, vulgar scribbling and destroying the language in order to show off. He was on the side of those who know that language changes for each generation. He would have loved New Hall. But he was unsound on dogs.

THE TIMES DIARY

Armed livery

ONCE it was said that anything one desired, one could buy at Harrods. Now Mohamed Al Fayed seems intent on making this a reality by going into the arms trade.

He is expanding his empire by registering the Harrods trademark with the European Union. Included in the list of services and products upon which he wishes to guarantee his intellectual property are side arms, firearms, ammunition, projectiles and explosives.

"We are clean out of armaments," says Laurie Meyer, Mo's helper. "But we have to draw the line: we are not about to start stocking tanks in Harrods livery."

● *ROUGH being royal, what with parties, palaces, and Civil Lists. "I've been brought up to believe life isn't fair," says the Princess Royal.*

Fit for office

JACK STRAW's enthusiasm for confronting "yoofs" may have been inspired by a new fitness regime that is seeing him spend longer at the Westminster gym. So regularly does he toil with treadmills, bikes, weights and "boxercise to music" classes, that the Home Secretary has been awarded "bronze" in the club's table of dedicated members, just a couple of puffs behind the retiring Paddy Ashdown.

● *HARD shoulder rather than off-the shoulder for relatively Posh Spice, Victoria Adams (below). The singer has had a spot of engine*



trouble on the A1. She was cruising with her Mum in the family Porsche when it broke down and had to be towed away. An AA type said: "I thought Posh was pretty, but her mother's even nicer."

Waiting game

THE hospital which received the PM's seal of approval recently has been less hospitable to one of his MPs. Lindsay Hoyle had hobbled to St Thomas's with a bashed leg after hearing his master's praise.

He was told to expect a three-hour wait, so he drove 200 miles to a hospital in his Chorley constituency. "It was quicker to drive four hours up North where I was treated in an hour," says Hoyle. "I was home in bed by midnight."



● *OXFORD University Press has a novel excuse for the demise of its poetry list. Keith Thomas, the chairman of its finance committee, has explained that scholars no longer have time to write dry tracts as they cannot afford servants and must do their own domestic chores.*

Police video

SHOTS of the Royal Family off-duty are to be aired courtesy of the police. *The Unseen Royal Family*, scheduled by ITV to grace our televisual receivers in April, will show film taken by rozzers who guarded the family.

Loyal royal guardians have responded to HTV advertisements in police journals seeking "an insight into the family's most intimate moments". Royals, surprised that there are any "intimate moments" left, are alarmed. "We have offered factual help, but no more than that," mutters Buckingham Palace.

● *TO Quentin Crewe's memorial service with his "pushers" (wheelchair helpers) and, as his nephew Bamber Gascoigne noted, a sequence of attractive "aunts". They recalled a trip in a Mini with Sandie Shaw, Mick Jagger and Lord Snowdon. Just how many celebrities can you fit into a Mini?*

JASPER GERARD

THE TIMES

FOOD WARS

The other risks from the GM fiasco

Governments need stiff resolve when faced with any food or health scare. Impetuous action to satisfy public alarm can have disastrous, long-term consequences. The current furore over genetically modified (GM) crops and food is no different. Bending to public concern by placing a moratorium on their commercial growth or sale, as green activists wish, could have disastrous ramifications for prosperity and world trade. The letter published yesterday by five Cabinet Ministers displays an awareness of the potential benefits GM technology can bring, but its release into an environment already affected by hysteria does not bode well for progress.

The different reception that GM foods have received in America and Europe could hardly be more marked. More than 12 million hectares of GM crops were planted in America in 1997. By next year, this area may have tripled. With a fifth of all their corn and half their soya being genetically modified, Americans appear to believe the assurances of the Food and Drug Administration that GM crops are safe to grow and GM produce is safe to eat.

The first to benefit have been American farmers, whose yields of soya have increased by up to 5 per cent, while using less herbicide. Next is American industry itself, making money researching genetically engineered seeds, the market for which will be worth an estimated $6 billion by 2005. The most crucial beneficiaries are consumers, who might soon be offered healthier and longer-lasting food at potentially lower prices.

Europe's populations prefer to look on the dark side of GM crops and food. Public caution of something "new", official scepticism of the American research, and the European Union's antiquated system for regulating food safety threaten to hobble Europe's progress, marginalise farmers by denying them high-productivity GM crops, and deprive consumers of possible benefits. Austria, France and Luxembourg have already blocked the commercial growth of certain GM crops. The European Commission may challenge at least one of these decisions as an impediment to free trade.

Yet the Commission needs to respond with care. If it acts too heavy-handedly, an anti-GM food alliance could soon form among member states, undermining the Commission's authority and the single market. If it fails to act at all, tacitly giving its approval to the contravention of EU law, a bandwagon against GM food and crops could soon begin to roll. If European countries banned GM products without proving they are unsafe, the World Trade Organisation, backed by America's muscle, is bound to object. A dispute among scientists could become a trade war.

Other countries share Europe's ostrich-like approach to GM food and crops. Developing countries want the Biosafety Protocol, being negotiated this week in Colombia, to allow nations to ban or restrict import of GM organisms, ranging from pest-resistant corns and potatoes through to advanced pharmaceuticals and blue jeans (made from GM cotton). Yet these are the very countries which have so much to gain from genetic modification.

The development of GM crops has been unsettling. The seeds of mistrust have been sown in foreign and English fields. Ministers must be senistive, but they should not bend too much with the wind.

KURDS IN GREECE

Athens pays the price of unreason

Nowhere has the Ocalan affair had a more devastating impact than in Greece. Across Europe Greek embassies have been ransacked. Greek diplomats have been threatened by Kurdish demonstrators in more than 20 cities. Greece has been made to look both ludicrous and mendacious for its bungled attempt to shelter the PKK Kurdish leader while repeatedly denying that it was doing anything to help him. And now the Greek Government has paid a heavy price, with the resignation of Theodoros Pangalos, the Foreign Minister, and the Ministers of the Interior and Public Order. Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister, has been badly damanged, and the affair may lead to his removal.

Greece has brought this catastrophe on its own head. Its support for Abdullah Ocalan is a result of short-sighted policies that are guided more by emotion than reason and that have often cost the country so dear. Suspicion of Turkey and hostility to whatever government holds office in Ankara have long been the main issues determining policy in Athens: the old Greek words hysteria and paranoia aptly characterise the relationship. The Kurdish revolt was seen by some politicians as a way of tying down the Turkish Army, an important aim in the confrontations with Ankara over the Aegean and Cyprus. And Mr Ocalan, the leader of the revolt, was therefore hailed as a hero who was not only battling against Turkish oppression but also serving a useful political purpose.

Acting on the principle of "my enemy's enemy is my friend" may win votes; but it makes for poor statesmanship. Greece knew that open backing of the PKK was a provocation that could trigger an incalculable Turkish response, and Mr Simitis steered a careful course between support for Kurdish aspirations and caution in not endorsing PKK violence. But the murky involvement of the Greek Ambassador to Kenya, the attempt to give refuge to Mr Ocalan and the use of forged passports and diplomatic subterfuge have ruined this policy. Greece now stands accused of the very kind of backing for terrorism that it would be swift to denounce from any fellow European Union member.

Mr Pangalos, a political heavyweight often too outspoken for ministerial office, had to go. So, probably, did the others who resigned. But although Mr Simitis called for their departures, this does not lessen the pressure on him, from both Left and Right. Senior Pasok politicians, who dreamt of inheriting the Papandreou crown, have never forgiven Mr Simitis — not only for beating them to the premiership but for betraying the crusty, nationalist, idiosyncratic Papandreou legacy. They see him as a Major diluting the Thatcher revolution. They mask their left-wing animus under the guise of defending Greek national interests, a populist cause embraced also by the opposition Right.

The isolation of Mr Simitis is bad for Greece. A pragmatist and moderate, he needs domestic as well as foreign support to try to steer his country and party into policies for the next century. A ray of good news is his appointment of George Papandreou, son of the former Prime Minister, to succeed Mr Pangalos. He is one of the most moderate and intelligent men in the Cabinet. But it will be hard for both of them to restore Greek pride and voter confidence after the Ocalan fiasco.

WAR IN THE HORN

Neither Ethiopia nor Eritrea can win a military victory

Last summer the world was baffled by a brief, intense war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Months of fitful peace and unproductive negotiation followed. Two weeks ago the war flared again. Yesterday a troika of EU ambassadors arrived in the Horn of Africa to add impetus to efforts to end hostilities. They deserve our sympathy and support. The belligerents' accusations and counter-accusations have combined with limited press access to create an extraordinarily confused situation where little is clear other than the fact of the violence itself. There is a basis for a ceasefire — an 11-point plan drawn up by the Organisation for African Unity, based on American and Rwandan mediatory proposals made last summer, with EU and UN Security Council backing. But Eritrea will not implement it: and while one party is so dogmatically opposed, the process cannot prosper.

The sticking point is the plan's stipulation that Eritrean troops must withdraw from disputed territory. The land is Eritrean, says Asmara; sovereignty must be decided before any withdrawal, which would leave its people subject to the authority of a state which expels Eritrean migrants and has unilaterally broken the American-brokered moratorium on air attacks. Addis Ababa, meanwhile, claims Asmara mounted a premeditated invasion which no settlement should recognise. A return to the *status quo ante* — Ethiopian administration and no Eritrean military presence — is the only option. Though the factual bases of their respective positions may be impossible to verify, the positions themselves are clearly incompatible. And each side is too proud to back down.

Yet the fact that much of the fighting has been on undisputed territory shows that the border dispute is the symptom, not the cause. Eritrea is a proud, prickly, highly militarised society, quick to overreact to any perceived slight, which has fought each of its neighbours since independence in 1993, and undoubtedly resents Ethiopia's faster economic growth. Ethiopia, on the other hand, is overly sensitive because the contested territory is in Tigre — the symbolic province of Aksum and Adowa and the home of the core of President Meles Zenawi's Tigrean People's Liberation Front-based Government.

Its underlying fear is denial of access to the Red Sea. It renounced a coastline by giving Eritrea independence, assuming a friendly Asmara: when the latter introduced its currency, it threatened to move outside Addis Ababa's control. President Zenawi's subsequent overreaction created the tension which fanned last summer's border dispute. That same fear may be behind its recent bombing of Assab's water supply, destruction of which would render the exposed Red Sea port vulnerable to a siege. The war may yet escalate.

Victory is impossible. Neither side is likely to shift positions on the OAU plan without substantial external pressure. Both countries are poor. Perhaps the best that the EU troika can hope for is to try to find a different basis for a ceasefire, with acceptance encouraged by the judicious application of financial sticks. Only when the two sides persuade themselves — or are persuaded — that peace is in their interests will the guns fall silent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Ethical and social questions raised by GM crops

From Professor Ian Kennedy, Chairman of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics

Sir, Fourteen months ago this council invited Professor Alan Ryan, the distinguished Oxford philosopher, to chair a working party to consider the ethical and social implications of developments in genetically modified crops. The report of this working party is now near completion and the council will publish it in May. It will address such issues as food safety, the environment, biodiversity, commercialisation, consumer choice, regulation and the interests and needs of developing countries. It will contain recommendations for policymakers.

The intensity of the debate about genetically modified food (GMF) makes it clear that the complex issues about its implications require careful evaluation and illustrates the dangers of judgments being hastily made in the glare of publicity. For the public, trying to reconcile or balance the viewpoints of industry, environmentalists and government under these conditions is an almost impossible task. We hope that our report will provide that careful evaluation.

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics is independent. This is important. The current debate on GMF suggests that the public wants impartial analysis and advice in which it can have confidence. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust, the council produces searching, widely disseminated reports on questions raised by advances in biology and biomedicine.

Our experience suggests that these can make a more helpful and lasting contribution to informing the public and developing public policy than the present stream of instant, and often intemperate comment.

Yours faithfully
IAN KENNEDY,
Chairman,
Nuffield Council on Bioethics,
28 Bedford Square, WC1B 3EG.
February 17.

From Professor Thomas Lehner and Dr Julian Ma

Sir, Publicity about genetically modified food should not be confused with the technology utilised for medical purposes.

There is extensive published evidence that plants can be genetically modified to produce a variety of vaccines and antibodies that will prevent bacterial or viral infections. Those investigations are carried out under strictly controlled laboratory conditions and they are seen as one of the most promising future developments in controlling microbial disease.

In this country, Europe, the US and Japan vaccines administered by mouth have priority over injection. This will be achieved either by oral administration of a vaccine produced in genetically modified edible plants (for example, bananas, tomatoes, etc), or by using purified extracts from suitable plants.

Transgenic plants are being studied to generate preventive vaccines in common infections, such as hepatitis, dental caries, Aids and diarrhoea, to mention only a few. The benefit of low-cost, easy storage and simple mode of administration is self-evident in making vaccines readily available to all, especially in developing countries, and eliminating the fear of the needle.

The public needs to be aware of the immense benefits that derive from the medicinal application of transgenic plant biotechnology in preventing infectious diseases, which are the most common causes of mortality and morbidity.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS LEHNER,
JULIAN MA,
Guy's, King's and
St Thomas' Hospital
Medical and Dental School,
London Bridge, SE1 9RT.
thomas.lehner@kcl.ac.uk
February 18.

From Mr Barnaby Hannam

Sir, Most of the concern regarding genetically modified crops seems focused on the safety of the food which they produced.

More thought should surely be given to the fact that, sprayed as intended, these crops will have *no* weeds and hence no host plants for the innumerable insects, spiders and assorted bugs which normally inhabit our fields. As a cereal farmer, I should be happy to use such crops; but somehow I am uneasy.

Maybe we should also ponder over bees collecting nectar for honey from such crops?

Yours sincerely,
BARNABY HANNAM,
West Sevington Farm,
Yatton Keynell,
Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 7LE.
February 16.

From Mrs Dorothy Tucker

Sir, I have no interest in what Tony Blair chooses to eat.

I *am* interested in my right to choose what my husband, my family and I eat.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY TUCKER,
17 Henniker Gate,
Chelmer Village, Chelmsford,
Essex CM2 6QH.
February 16.

From Mr John O'Leary

Sir, How can Tony Blair be so certain that GM is safe? Look what it did to the Labour Party.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN O'LEARY,
56 Kenilworth Drive,
Croxley Green, Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire WD3 3NW.
john@oleary.freeserve.co.uk
February 16.

'Veil of secrecy' on doctors' standards

From Professor John Spiers

Sir, There are two vital elements still missing from the General Medical Council's proposals for improving the regulation of doctors (report, later editions, February 11).

First, we should expect the publication of information on the general pattern of performance of individual doctors. How many women would have allowed themselves to be referred to the disgraced gynaecologist in Kent (reports, September 15-17, 1998) and how many parents would have allowed their children to be referred to the Bristol doctors (letter, February 16) if death rates and other comparative data had been openly published? There is a real question for patients: am I being referred to "Dr Up-to-date" or to "Dr Deadwood"? How can I tell *before* I accept treatment?

Second, we need an independent inspectorate, staffed by medical professionals but chaired by an informed lay person. The issue is not only the recovery of public confidence in doctors in general. It is to ensure that individual and specific practice is to the highest standards.

An independent inspectorate should routinely check any case where a clinical issue arises. It should have the legal power to require post mortems. It should check practice at random, too: motorway cameras change behaviour — a clinical equivalent could much improve medical services.

Self-regulation is insufficient: either the doctors do not have the necessary information, which is a concern, or they do or will have it, in which case why maintain the veil of secrecy? After all we, the patients, own our bodies. And we, the taxpayers, pay the bills.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SPIERS
(Chairman, The Patients Association, 1995-97),
The Gate Cottage,
Twyford, Birch Grove,
Haywards Heath, Sussex RH17 7DJ.
February 11.

From Mr Denis Dooley, FRCS

Sir, I understand that the proposed inspectors of doctors' performance will be expected to listen to "whistle-blowers".

May I suggest that encouragement should also be given to members of the public to record and inform the inspecting authority of the excellent work done by individual GPs, consultants and nurses from day to day. We might call these people "trumpet-blowers".

Sincerely,
DENIS DOOLEY,
7 Murray Road,
Wimbledon, SW19 4PD.
February 12.

From Mr Peter Wade

Sir, Competence tests for doctors. Will this include handwriting?

Yours faithfully,
PETER WADE,
12 Bell Close,
Colchester, Essex CO2 8EP.
February 11.

Tories and compassion

From Mr Oliver Kamm

Sir, Your report (February 16) that William Hague is determined to "reach out", and to "recapture from the Left the words like caring, like compassion", nicely illustrates the intellectual confusion that characterises the modern Conservative Party.

Compassion is among the most desirable of personal virtues and dangerous of political affectations. The task of government is not to assuage emotional pain; it is to set disinterestedly the rules we live by. Economic redistribution is justified, indeed necessary, to the extent that it enables citizens to exercise autonomous choices within that framework of rules. That is not compassion; it is equity.

Among the reasons for the Left's electoral recovery has been its eventual realisation that government has a limit, as well as a role, in promoting that end. Mr Hague is apparently determined to forget the same point.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER KAMM,
39 Calthorpe Street, WC1X 0JX.
February 16.

Heeding health risks

From Dr A. M. Monro

Sir, Your report of February 8, headed "Public scorns advice over food safety", highlights the ironic paradox of trying to impart the best scientific knowledge (whether endorsed by the Government or not) on health matters to the public at large.

While nearly one third of the population persists in smoking itself into chronic illness and an early death (despite the strongest recommendations against the use of tobacco), what hope can there be that the population will pay more attention to advice on the true risks associated with consumption of various foods?

The accompanying report, "Health fears may be overdone", correctly suggests that most health hazards from food arise from campylobacter, salmonella and *E.coli* and that eating beef and genetically modified foods is amongst the safest things one can do. It might also have gone on to say that not only do pesticide residues in food pose an infinitesimally small (and obviously acceptable) risk, but that a case can actually be made for an *increased* use of pesticides in the production of fruit and vegetables.

This would have the effect of reducing the price of these foodstuffs and anything that can be done to encourage an increased consumption of them would have indisputable major health benefits in the prevention of cancer and other age-related diseases. All this is well documented in the scientific and medical literature.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR MONRO,
Wisteria House,
Coombe Lane, Ash,
Kent CT3 2BS.
February 9.

Fox in distress

From Ms Sharon Kyrke-Smith

Sir, Richard Edwards, the vet, may well have found himself with a very stressed fox which had been rescued after a hunt (report, February 17), but may I suggest that for a wild animal, which had never had any human contact, to be bundled up and driven to his surgery might well have been the principal cause of "a racing heart, no colour in its gums and blood in its urine".

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
SHARON KYRKE-SMITH,
197 Grove Lane, SE5 8BP.
February 17.

From Mr Clifford Chatterton

Sir, Now we are provided with information that foxes can have stress when hunted, should we not also be advised what chickens feel like when foxes raid their pens?

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD CHATTERTON,
608 Lambton Lane,
Berkshire Lakes,
Naples, Florida 34104.
nfn01268@naples.net
February 17.

The benefit of burning

From Professor Philip Stott

Sir, It was a pleasure to read the balanced comments of your Horticulture Correspondent, Alan Toogood, on the role of controlled fires in tropical vegetation (article, "Orchids rise like phoenix from the ashes at Kew", February 15).

By contrast, a great deal of media reporting of environmental fires, controlled and uncontrolled, suffers from a dangerous combination of millennium eco-hype and a serious misreading of other people's landscapes.

In the Tropics fire, properly used, is a friend not an enemy, and in many environments it is vital for the functioning of the system. Moreover, the Tropics have always burned, including the forests, from before a hominid wielded a fire stick.

Current claims that tropical fires are a major factor in fuelling perceived global warming are both specious and immoral in their attempt to transfer the blame to developing countries. Fire is also a major tool for managing the patchiness and biodiversity of tropical ecosystems.

Your Horticulture Correspondent is therefore right to emphasise the role of fires in maintaining lowland forests. Perhaps we can now expect fewer headlines of the genre "Fires the greatest ecological disaster the world has seen"?

Unfortunately, I doubt it. Such subtlety is not on the agenda of many Western journalists, who lack the innate understanding of West African novelist, Chinua Achebe, writing in *Anthills of the Savannah* (Heinemann, 1987):

> The trees had become hydra-headed bronze statues so ancient that only blunt features remained on their faces, like anthills surviving to tell the new grass of the savannah about last year's brush fires.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP STOTT
(Professor of Biogeography,
University of London),
24 Clarence Place, Windmill Hill,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 1LD.
stott2@compuserve.com
February 15.

Doing penance

From Mr Mike Prymaka

Sir, Lack of any mention of pancakes in *The Times* on Shrove Tuesday reminded me of a comment in the regimental mess suggestions book on this day many years ago: "Since our cooks have chosen not to celebrate Shrove Tuesday in traditional style, may we request that they similarly ignore Ash Wednesday?"

Yours faithfully,
MIKE PRYMAKA,
The Yews,
Cootes Lane, Fen Drayton,
Cambridgeshire CB4 5SL.
prymaka@aol.com
February 16.

Hot on the trail

From Mr R. E. Hurst

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg, writing today about the Clinton case, says of Kenneth Starr that "he was trotting, like a bloodhound with double cataracts, after a red herring".

Come back Sam Goldwyn — all is forgiven.

Yours sincerely,
R. E. HURST,
20 Esk Gardens,
Wetherby LS22 7UR.
February 15.

**Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk***

OUP's scholarly record

From the Chief Executive of Macmillan

Sir, Whilst I, along with all other publishers, have enormous respect for the Oxford University Press's scholarly projects, Henry Reece is wrong to suggest (letter, February 9; see also letters, February 11 and 12) that his company is alone in the field.

Macmillan's investment in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* and the 34-volume *Dictionary of Art* has averaged £6 million in each of the last five years. In addition, we are investing in many other large-scale projects.

Furthermore, the Government may not "support" OUP directly, but Macmillan, along with most scholarly publishers, pays corporation tax. OUP is exempt by virtue of its university status. Tax exemption is surely a form of government support.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD CHARKIN,
Chief Executive, Macmillan
(and OUP employee, 1975-88),
25 Eccleston Place, SW1W 9NF.
richard@macmillan.co.uk
February 12.

Luvvies' labours

From Sir Peter Hall

Sir, Public spats between luvvies must be the least interesting form of life to *Times* readers. But the public accusation that I am a betrayer (producer Bill Kenwright's description of me, interview, Arts, February 4), must be answered, and answered publicly.

Kenwright indicated to me that he would have liked me to walk out of the current Old Vic revival of *Amadeus* in its last week of rehearsal, or to have threatened to do so. I would then have left Peter Shaffer, David Suchet, Michael Sheen and a wonderful cast (many of whom I have worked with for 35 years) in the lurch.

I believe that Kenwright wanted to improve the terms of his deal as co-producer of the play in America. I was not prepared to be used as a negotiating pawn, nor to behave unprofessionally. As a consequence, my company has closed down.

Yours sincerely,
PETER HALL,
The Peter Hall Company,
Piccadilly Theatre,
Denman Street, W1V 8DY.
February 5.

Knot rated

From Mr John G. Tate

Sir, Thank you for your letter regretting that you were unable to publish one of mine. As I read it my bow-tie began to wilt.

Nevertheless, this does not prevent me from offering hearty congratulations to Professor Ian Fells, who not only started the bow-tie correspondence (February 5), but a few days later (letter, February 10) gave us his interesting thoughts on nuclear power.

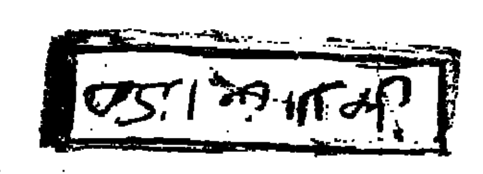
Yours faithfully,
JOHN G. TATE,
4 High View,
Hedley on the Hill, Stocksfield,
Northumberland NE43 7TD.
February 13.

True enough

From Mr Bryan Marson-Smith

Sir, A small piece of social history: my grandson, aged just four, pointed to a red roadside telephone kiosk and observed: "That's where you go if you don't have a mobile."

Yours faithfully,
B. MARSON-SMITH,
Fairseat, Gracious Lane,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1TJ.
February 18.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 18: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

By command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr. Vassilis S. Zafiropoulos at 51 Upper Brook Street, London W1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from Greece.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief, this morning, received Major General Michael Heath upon relinquishing his appointment as Colonel Commandant Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Major General Peter Besgrove upon assuming the appointment at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, today held a Lunch for the Council Members and supporters of the National Playing Fields Association at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this evening, attended the Outward Bound Trust Friends' Reception at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, later, attended the Outward Bound Patron's Company Dinner, at St James's Palace.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 18: Air Commodore E.G. Mackay today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Commandant-in-Chief, Royal Air Force Central Flying School, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commandant.

Air Commodore M. Prissick also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commandant of the Royal Air Force Central Flying School.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 18: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall, Mr Robert Ross.

His Royal Highness, Royal Patron, The Soil Association, today attended a seminar on Organic Farming & Agenda 2000 CAP Reform.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Women's South Pole 2000, this afternoon received the expedition team.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 18: The Princess Royal this morning officially opened new wards and facilities at Sidmouth Victoria Cottage Hospital, May Terrace, Sidmouth, Devon, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Devon (Mr Eric Dancer).

Her Royal Highness, subsequently visited Sidmouth Homeopathic Clinic, Twyford House, Coburg Road, Sidmouth, Devon.

The Princess Royal, Patron, Sense — The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, later visited the new Day Centre at Providence Court, 37 Northern Hay Street, Exeter, Devon.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Sense — The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, this afternoon officially opened Applemead, a new group home, at Station Road, Whimple, Exeter, Devon.

The Princess Royal, Patron, The National Autistic Society, later officially opened Saunders House, the new off-site residential unit, at Broomhayes School, Fore Street, Northam, Devon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 18th: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was represented by The Viscount Ullswater at a Memorial Service for Mr Quentin Crewe, which was held at St George's Church, Hanover Square, London W1, today.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 18: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, today received Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Cass on relinquishing command and Lieutenant-Colonel James Murray-Playfair, MBE, on assuming command of the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Regimen of Fusiliers.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the Hanover Band, this evening attended a concert at St John's Smith Square, London SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 18: Princess Alexandra, President, this morning visited the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Shop at 36 Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Her Royal Highness, Patron of the Digestive Disorders Foundation, this afternoon received Professor John Lennard-Jones, President, and Dr Richard Thompson, Head of the Medical Household.

Princess Alexandra, Patron of Guideposts Trust, subsequently received Mr Robert Elmore, Chairman, and Mr Clifford Upex, Director.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a reception given by the American Chamber of Commerce in London at noon.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Rhopoint, Oxted, Surrey, at 2.20.

The Princess Royal, as president, the Rural Housing Trust, will visit Cedar's View, East Tytherley, Salisbury and Steven's Drove, Houghton, Stockbridge, Hampshire at 10.35; as patron, National Association of Victims Support Schemes, will attend the Great North Ride event at The Guildhall, Broadway, Winchester, at 12.35; will open the neo-natal unit at Florence Portal House, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Romsey Road, Winchester, at 1.50; and as patron, the Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, at 2.25.

Appointment

Churches Conservation Trust
Mr Richard Bevan Butt has been appointed a Member of the Churches Conservation Trust for three years from April 1, in succession to Mr Peter Rumble.

Birthdays today

The Duke of York celebrates his 39th birthday today.

Mr Peter Baldwin, former chief executive, Radio Authority, 72; Sir John Collyear, engineer, 72; the Rev Dr G. Henton Davies, Principal Emeritus, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 93; Sir Nicholas Fenn, diplomat, 63; Lord Forbes, 81; Mr John Freeman, former MP, diplomat and chairman, London Weekend Television, 84; Lord Henniker, 83; Dr Robin Jeffrey, deputy chairman, British Energy, 60; Miss Hana Mandlikova, tennis player, 37; Professor Bernard Meadows, sculptor, 84; Dr Alan J. Munro, Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 62; Sir Nigel Nicholls, former Clerk of the Privy Council, 61; Sir Daniel Pettit, former chairman, National Freight Corporation, 84; Mrs Erin Pizzey, author and founder of first shelter for battered wives, 60; Mr Peter Price, former MEP, 57; Mr Smokey Robinson, singer, 59; Mr Colin Sharman, international chairman, KPMG, 56; Miss Gwen Taylor, actress, 60; Mr Brian Tesler, former deputy chairman, LWT (Holdings), 70.

Service dinners

University of London OTC
Mr Douglas Henderson, Minister for the Armed Forces, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual dinner of the University of London Officers' Training Corps held last night at Yeomanry House, London. Lieutenant-Colonel N.M. Holland presided.

Manchester & Salford Universities Air Squadron
Air Vice-Marshal B.K. Burridge, Air Officer Commanding 11/18th Group RAF, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Manchester & Salford Universities Air Squadron held last night at RAF Woodvale. Squadron Leader R.J. Pickering was in the chair.

Dinners

British Academy of Forensic Sciences
Lord Mackay of Clashfern, KT, presided at the friends' dinner of the British Academy of Forensic Sciences held last night at the Law Society. Mr Anthony Glass, QC, and Mr Jeremy Roberts, QC, also spoke.

European Atlantic Group
Mr Christopher Cox, Chairman of the House Policy Committee of the AmericRan Congress, was the guest speaker at a dinner of the European Atlantic Group held last night at the St James's Court Hotel, London SW1. Lord Judd of Portsea, chairman, presided. Dr Lord Gilbert and Lord McNair also spoke.

Anchorites
Vice-Admiral Sir Christopher Morgan, Director General of the Chamber of Shipping, was the principal guest at the monthly dinner of the Anchorites held last night at the Café Royal. Captain S. Taylor, president, was in the chair.

CIB (London) Golfing Society
Mr J.J. Warr and Mr Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie were the principal guests at the jubilee dinner of the CIB (London) Golfing Society held last night at the RAC, Pall Mall. Mr Colin Frizzell presided. Mr Roger Howells, captain, also spoke.

Dame Mary Cartwright, FRS

A memorial service for Dame Mary Cartwright, FRS, Mistress at Girton from 1949 to 1968, will be held in Girton College Chapel on Saturday, March 13, 1999, at 2.30pm. Please contact Sarah Pickard, College Secretary, Girton College, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0JG (Tel: 01223 338951, Fax: 01223 337021 or e-mail sjp54@cam.ac.uk).

University news

Oxford
Oriel College
Niall Alan McCulloch (Law) formerly of Dundee University, Scotland has been elected to a scholarship.
Sarah Florence Watson (Law) formerly of Dumfries Academy, Scotland has been elected to an exhibition.

Somerville College
The following elections have been made:
To a Coombs Scholarship in Modern History: Emma Louise Furniss (formerly of Tertiary College, Northamptonshire).
To a Pope Exhibition in Modern Languages: Elizabeth Mary Dye (formerly of Colchester County High School), Catherine Elizabeth Hunter (formerly of Garseinon College, Swansea) and Francesca Emily Southerden (formerly of The Queen's School, Chester).

Cambridge
Emmanuel College
The following have been elected into a Research Fellowship for three years from October 1:
G.E. Georghiou, BA (Emmanuel College); A.C. Henry, BA (Christ's College); M.S. Olsaretti, BA, MPhil, (St John's College, Oxford).

FIONA HANSON



Robert Carlyle, star of *The Full Monty* and *Trainspotting*, at Buckingham Palace yesterday after receiving the insignia of the OBE. The cropped hair is for his part as the villain in the latest James Bond film, *The World Is Not Enough*

Memorial service

Mr Quentin Crewe
Princess Margaret was represented by Viscount Ullswater at a memorial service for Mr Quentin Hugh Crewe, writer and journalist, held yesterday at St George's, Hanover Square. Prebendary W.M. Atkins officiated and Mr Colin Crewe, brother, read a prayer by St Francis de Sales.

Mrs Donovan Wylie (Candida Crewe) and Miss Charity Crewe, daughters, read letters from their father. Mrs Angela Howard-Johnson, Mr Alan Brien, Mr Piers Russell-Cobb, Mr Hamish Goddard, Miss Eugenie Howard-Johnston and Mr Magnus Linklater paid tribute. Mr Bamber Gascoigne gave an address. Mr George Melly, accompanied by Mr Ron Rubin, piano, sang Fats Waller's *My Very Good Friend the Milkman*. Among others present were:

Mr Sebastian Crewe and Mr Nathaniel Crewe (sons), Mr Donovan Wylie (son-in-law), Mr Peregrine Crewe, Mrs Emma Vester, Miss Annabel Crewe, Mary Duchess of Roxburgh, Mr James Howard-Johnston, Mrs Susan Crewe.

The Countess of Lindsay, Viscount and Viscountess Norwich, Lady O'Neill of the Maine, Baroness Linklater of Butterstone, Lady Ashburton, Lady Cavendish of Furness, Baroness Trumpington, Lady Bonham Carter, Lady Annabel Lindsay, Lady Henrietta Rous.

The Hon Sir Mark Lennox-Boyd, the Hon Mrs Forbes Adam, the Hon Mrs Michael Astor, the Hon Mrs Harriet Cullen (Keats, Shelley Memorial Association), the Hon Robin and Mrs Warrender, the Hon Emily Cavendish, the Hon Lucy Cavendish, the Hon Raymond and Mrs Bonham Carter, the Hon Mrs F Morgan, the Hon Sarah Astor, the Hon Emma Soames, the Hon Mrs Veronica Plowden, the Hon Brigid Westenra, the Hon David Macmillan, Pauline Lady Rumbold, Sir Ian Rankin, Sir James and Lady Spooner, Sir Stephen Egerton (St Andrew's Trust), Lady Warner, Lady Parker, Mr and the Hon Mrs Michael Brand.

Mr Charles Moore (Editor, *The Daily Telegraph*), Mrs Susan Baring, Mr Bernard Levin, Mr Arthur Brittenden, the Rev Timothy Forbes Adam, Mrs Bamber Gascoigne, Mr Brian Gascoigne, Mr Antony Whitaker, Mrs Humphrey Brooke, Mr William Harris, QC, and Mrs Harris, Mrs Nicholas Paravicini, Ms Penny Junor, Ms Prue Leith, Miss Jennifer Paterson.

Mr and Mrs Jonathan Harris, Mrs Felicity Binyon, Miss Charlotte Studholme, Mrs Richard Roundell, Mrs Michael Hughes Hallett, Mr and Mrs Andrew Sinclair, Miss Sue Bradbury, Mrs Romer Nicholson, Mrs Gerald Draper, Mrs Morna Arkle, Mrs Diana Hanbury, Mr Nigel Ryan, Mr Pierre De Preez, Mr and Mrs Christopher Woods, Mr Malcolm Valentine and Miss Caroline Charles, Mr and Mrs M de Wend Fenton.

Mrs Michael Chichester, Mrs Andrew Clowes, Mr Hugh Geddes, Mr Nigel Dempster, Mr Eric Packer, Mr Peter Saunders, Mr Anthony Gardner, Mrs Diana Baring, Mr and Mrs Adrian House, Mr William Mostyn-Owen, Mrs Elizabeth Mostyn-Owen, Mrs Paul Johnson, Mr Nicholas Haslam, Mr and Mrs Anthony Harwood, Mr Anthony Cazalet, Mrs Charles Gibson, Georgia Gibson, Mr David Leigh-Hunt.

Ms Min Hogg, Mrs H Geddes, Miss Belinda Harley, Ms Drusilla Beyfus, Mr Cosmo Fry, Mr Robin Hanbury-Tenison, Mr and Mrs Robert Woodward, Mr and Mrs James Courage, Mr and Mrs Tim Beddow, Mr James Hughes-Onslow, Mr Anthony Wieler (representing the council and trustees, Action Research), Mrs Paula Keaveney (Muscular Distrophy Group), Miss R A Lobban (All Saints', Madeley), Ms Susannah Amoore (Condé Nast), Mrs Lisa Parkes (Walton Theatre Collection) and many other friends and former colleagues.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Nicolaus Copernicus, astronomer, Thorun, Poland, 1473; David Garrick, actor-manager, Hereford, 1717; Luigi Boccherini, composer, Lucca, Italy, 1743; Sir William Fairbairn, engineer, Kelso, 1789; Adelina Patti, Baroness Cederstron, soprano, Madrid, 1843; Jimmy Durante, actor and comedian, New York City, 1893; Sir Cedric Hardwicke, actor, Lye, Worcestershire, 1893; Merle Oberon, actress, Bombay, 1911; Lee Marvin, actor, New York, 1924.

DEATHS: Blondin (Jean-François Gravelet), acrobat and tightrope walker, London, 1897; André Gide, writer, Nobel laureate 1947, Paris, 1951; John Grierson, documentary film-maker, Bath, 1972.

The Women's Institute was founded by Mrs Hoodless in Ontario, Canada, 1897. It was introduced to Britain in the First World war.

Royal Air Force College Cranwell

Warrant Officers' Commissioning Ceremony
Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of Air Staff, visited Royal Air Force College Cranwell yesterday to review a Warrant Officers' Commissioning Ceremony.

The following were commissioned in the rank of flight lieutenant:

General Duties Branch - Air Electronic Officer
Flight Lieutenant G Edwards
Operations Support Branch - Flight Operations
Flight Lieutenants G P Andrews, E J Cairns, M J Clabby, J Gray, A Murray.
Operations Support Branch - Air Traffic Control
Flight Lieutenants P C Lay, J M Trangmar.
Operations Support Branch - Regiment
Flight Lieutenant R W Hinkley.
Engineer Branch
Flight Lieutenants P Hull, J D Lamb.
Supply Branch
Flight Lieutenant R A Leigh.
Administrative Branch-Secretarial
Flight Lieutenants M Walters, N E Williams.
Administrative Branch - Training
Flight Lieutenants R Davidson, I Thom.
Administrative Branch - Physical Education
Flight Lieutenants A Lane, M Threlfall.
Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service
Flight Lieutenant A C Salmon.
Medical Technician Branch - Dental Section
Flight Lieutenant T C Harris.

Legal appointments

Mrs Nehar Bird (barrister), Mr Lawrence Alan Grant (solicitor) and Mrs Carole Anne Scott-Baker (solicitor) have been appointed full-time Immigration Adjudicators (designated as Special Adjudicators) with effect from April 19. They will sit in Greater London.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Baker and Miss A.S.C. Miller
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Norman Baker, of Upshire, Essex, and Annabel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Miller, of Putney, London.

Captain C.A. Bisset, 2RTR, and Miss V.A. Springett
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs Colin Bisset, of Nantwich, Cheshire, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Springett, of Brentwood, Essex.

Mr P.J. Colley and Miss K.A. Ussher
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs John Colley, of Goudhurst, Kent, and Katharine (Kitty), eldest daughter of Mr Patrick Ussher, of Shillelagh, Co Wicklow, and Mrs Susan Whitfield, of Hammersmith, London.

Mr A.H.H. Crow and Miss C.M. Ward
The engagement is announced between Alastair, only son of Mr and Mrs Edward Crow, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham Ward, of Madeley, Cheshire.

Mr J.P. Dines and Ms L. Rose
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of the late Mr Philip Henry Dines and of Mrs Irene Dines, of London, and Lotte (widow of Justin Noel Laurence), younger daughter of the late Stuart Rose and of Dodo Rose, of Hadleigh, Suffolk.

Mr B.G. Ealovega and Miss A.R.J. Owen
The engagement is announced between Benjamin, son of Mr and Mrs George Ealovega, and Amabel, daughter of the late Mr John Owen and of Mrs John Owen, of Mayfield, East Sussex.

Mr A.F. Keen and Miss H.L. Kayll
The engagement is announced between Arthur Francis (Toby), youngest son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Keen, of Bonvilston, Vale of Glamorgan, and Helen Livingstone, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Kayll, of West Hall Cottage, Witton Gilbert, Co Durham.

The Hon C.G. Kemp and Miss C. Daunt
The engagement is announced between Christopher George, younger son of Viscount Rochdale, of Keswick, Cumbria, and Mrs Serena Hanson, of Camden, London, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Daunt, of Challock, Kent.

Mr E.F. Fenton and Miss C.E. Grass
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.F. Fenton, of Tenterden, Kent, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Grass, of Brixworth, Northamptonshire.

Mr P.A. May and Miss B. Sharp
The engagement is announced between Philip, eldest son of Mr Peter May, of Alrewas, Staffordshire, and Mrs William Hazledine, of Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, and Bronwen, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs David Ansell, of Nottinghamshire and London.

Mr B.M. Palmer and Miss J.K. Percival
The engagement is announced between Ben, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Henry Palmer, of Selborne, Hampshire, and Jessica, only daughter of Mr Tim Percival, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Christine Percival, of Barnes, London.

Mr W.T. Phelps and Miss K.G. Wiesenfeld
The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Christopher Phelps, of Oxford, and Kimberly, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Nathan Wiesenfeld, of Baltimore, USA.

Mr I.A.S. Robertson and Miss E.A. Mitchell-Heggs
The engagement is announced between Scott, younger son of the late Mr Ian Fyfe Robertson and of Mrs Robertson, of Winnipeg, Canada, and Emily Alexandra, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Mitchell-Heggs, of Wimbledon, London.

Lieutenant Colonel J.C. Stewart and Miss K.M. Dook
The engagement is announced between Johnny, second son of Colonel and Mrs Robert Stewart, of Arndean, Clackmannanshire, and Katie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Dook, of Wargrave-on-Thames, and Beckhampton.

Mr H.T. Turnbull and Miss K.M.E. Hall
The engagement is announced between Harry, youngest son of the late Mr Graham Turnbull and of Mrs Turnbull, of Bridge of Cally, Perthshire, and Katherine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Hall, of Wedmore, Somerset.

Mr C.C.H. Whyles and Miss J.C. Summers
The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs Donald Whyles, of Burton, Lincolnshire, and Joanna, daughter of Mr Michael Summers, of Norfolk, and Mrs Michael Perkins, of East Barkwith, Lincolnshire.

Church news

The Rev Ian Aveyard, Course Leader, St John's College, Nottingham (Southwell): to be Priest-in-Charge, Thanington, and Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Canterbury).
The Rev Arnold Bennett, Rector, Heckfield w. Mattingley w. Rotherwick (Winchester): to be Chaplain, Winchester St Cross Hospital w. St Faith (same diocese).
The Rev Roger Bowen, Vicar, Little Amwell (St Albans): to be also Rural Dean of Hertford and Ware (same diocese).
The Rev Stephen Brook, Priest-in-Charge, Bacup St Saviour (Manchester): tobe also Priest-in-Charge, Tunstead Holy Trinity (same diocese).
The Rev David Chillman, Curate, Yateley (Winchester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Halifax All Souls and St Augustine (Wakefield).
The Rev John Dobson, Curate-in-Charge, Blackwell All Saints CD (Durham): has been appointed Vicar, same benefice.
The Rev Michael Dodd, NSM, Golcar, St John the Evangelist (Wakefield): to be NSM, North Huddersfield (same diocese).
The Rev Damian Feeny, Curate, Preston St John and St George (Blackburn): to be Bishop's Mission Priest to Longsands (same diocese).
The Rev John Findon, Vicar, Baguely (Manchester): has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Bury St Mary the Virgin (same diocese).
The Rev Paul Firmin, Vicar, Shrewsbury Holy Trinity w. St Julian (Lichfield): Vicar, Astley, Clive, Grinshill and Hadnall (same diocese).
Canon Carl Garner, Priest-in-Charge, Digswell and Panshanger (St Albans): to be also Honorary Canon of St Albans Cathedral (same diocese).
The Rev Janet Gasper, NSM Curate, Leominster (Hereford): to be Assistant Curate, Letton w. Staunton, Byford, Mansel Gamage, and Monnington (same diocese).

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

It is not right to favour the guilty and prevent the innocent from receiving justice. Proverbs 18.5 (GNB).

BIRTHS

DODSON - On February 16th, to Victoria (née Corrie) and Mark, a daughter, Camilla Mary Corrie, a sister for Oliver.

ELLINGWORTH - On 18th February at Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, to Jane and Peter, a son, Brook, a brother for Fraser.

JOHNSON - On 15th February 1999, in Hereford County Hospital, to Anne Marie (née Millar) and Paul Michael, a daughter, Alexandra Charlotte Rose, a sister for Victoria.

KNOWLES - On February 11th, to Kitty (née Kitson) and Edward, a daughter, Isobel Flora, a sister for George and Tilly.

NASON - On February 15th, to Louise (née Martin) and Andrew, a daughter, Charlotte, a sister for Charlie.

PULLAN - On February 18th 1999, to Fiona (née Wilson) and David, a beautiful daughter, Chloë Hope Isobel, a sister for Ben and Toby.

ROSS - On February 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Alison, a daughter, Nevada Ke-Aloha Ellise Samantha.

RULE - On February 13th 1999, to Lucinda (née Dobell) and Marcus, a daughter, Claudia Madeleine, a sister for Rory and Henrietta. Marcus remained conscious this time!

VIRANI - On February 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Rashmi and Viral, a son, a brother for Ambika.

DEATHS

BELL - Peacefully at his home on 17th February 1999 Dr. Jack Bell Ph.D. D.I.C. A.R.C.S. M.I.Chem.E. B.A., beloved husband of Dora Elizabeth (Dela), dear father of Martin and Paul.

BONNER - Mrs Doris Bonner (née Bowen), 87 years. After a short illness, Doris slipped away quietly on Tuesday evening 16th February to join her husband John and brothers, sisters and family. Cremation at Lambeth Crematorium, Blackshaw Road, SW17 on Thursday 25th February at 10.30am. No flowers but donations if desired to Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust Charity, 369 Fulham Road, London SW10 9NH.

BRADLEY - David, died 16th February 1999. Loving husband of Lynette, father of Russell and Anna and grandpa of Alex. Service at Christ Church, Northcourt, Abingdon, Oxon on Thursday February 25th at 2.30pm. Enquiries to Edward Carter F/D 01235 528293.

BRAZIER - Rex Patrick on February 15th aged 61. Sadly missed, beloved of Marjorie, Philip, Zoe, Zara, Arthur and families. No flowers. Donations to Diana, Princess of Wales Fund, 38 Chiltern Street, W1M 1PH. Cremation Wednesday 24th February at 1.45 pm Golders Green Crematorium.

BRISTOL - The Marquess of. The funeral of John, 7th Marquess, who died on 10th January, will take place at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds at 11am on Tuesday 23rd February followed by interment at St Mary's Church, Ickworth. Flowers, or if desired donations to The Stapleford Trust, may be sent to Southgates Funeral Directors, 25 Duchess Drive, Newmarket CB8 8AG. Other enquiries to The Estate Office 01284 763521.

CHAPMAN - James Vincent on 17th February 1999 peacefully at home aged 87, ex Air Section, Station X, Secretary of the College of Preceptors 1949 - 1979. Service at All Saints Church, Theydon Garnon, Essex, 3.00pm, Sunday 28th February. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to All Saints Church, Theydon Garnon Fabric Fund, The Rectory, Fiddlers Hamlet, Epping, Essex.

CROWDER - F. Petre, Q.C. on 16th February, peacefully in hospital, after a short illness, aged 79 years. Beloved husband of Patricia (Bee) and much loved father of Richard and John. Funeral Monday 22nd February 2 pm. at Holy Trinity Brompton, London.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

DODWELL - Barbara, formerly Reader in History at the University of Reading and Archivist at Norwich Cathedral. Peacefully in hospital on February 15th aged 86. An aunt par excellence to her several nephews and nieces. Funeral at Christ Church, Eaton, Norwich at 2.15 pm on Wednesday February 24th. Family flowers only please. Donations in her memory to The Friends of Norwich Cathedral c/o Peter Taylor Funeral Services, 85 Unthank Road, Norwich.

DOWLING - On February 15th 1999, Margaret (Peggy - née Carrington), aged 79 years. Beloved wife of Martin, loving mother of Maggie and Paul and grandmother of Jo, Kathy, Graham and Fiona. Service at St James Church, Ewhurst Green on Tuesday February 23rd at 11.15am. Family flowers only, donations if desired, to Alzheimers Disease Society, c/o C Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, East Sussex TN19 7ET. (01435) 882219.

FAIRGRIEVE - Sir Russell. Suddenly, but peacefully on Wednesday 17th February 1999, in Switzerland, Russell, dearly loved husband of Millie, beloved father of Sandy, Patricia, Rosemary and Marjorie and a loving grandfather. Funeral private by family request. Memorial Service to be arranged. "Love is not changed by death, nothing is lost and all in the end is harvest."

FOWLER - James Owen Fowler of Redhill and Claygate. Funeral Service Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead 3.30pm, Monday 22nd February. (Not as previously published).

FRASER-MUNN - Elsie MBE. Mother of Fiona, Isbbel and Elspeth. Died peacefully on 16th February in Capetown during her 94th year. Remembered with joy and affection by all.

GAILEY-WHITE - On 14th February 1999, Nigel aged 40 years. Funeral Service on Friday (today) 19th February at St Mary's Church, Shackleford at 4.30 pm. Flowers welcome.

GREEN - William Burton (Jim) Sqn Ldr RAF (ret'd), peacefully at home on January 29th 1999. Beloved husband of Jane. A service of thanksgiving has been held followed by cremation on February 8th at Guildford.

HOWARD - Major Anson Bryan MC, aged 80 years, died peacefully at home on February 17th 1999. Dearly loved husband of Susan (decd) and devoted father of Frances, Jane, Anson, David, Jonathan and Rachel, and loving grandfather. Private cremation service, family flowers only. Thanksgiving Service at Christchurch, Cheltenham on Saturday 27th February at 2 pm. Flowers only.

IREDALE - Judy, on 16th February 1999 peacefully with her family all around her at home in Ampney Crucis after a courageous battle against cancer. Memorial service at Holy Rood Church, Ampney Crucis on Thursday 25th February at 11.30 am. Donations if desired to "Make A Wish", enquiries A Slade & Son (01285) 656336.

KINSELLA - Frank Kinsella (Donegal Town) died peacefully on 15th February in St Vincent's Hospital. Loving father of Elaine and a true and loyal friend who will be greatly missed. Funeral Service at Glasnevin Crematorium, Dublin 11 on Tuesday 23rd February at 1 pm. No flowers. Donations to RNLI.

LAW - Doris (née Thomson) passed away peacefully on Tuesday 16th February 1999 aged 68 years. A much loved wife of Ronnie and a devoted mother of Janette and Vivienne and granny to her five grandchildren. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends. The funeral service is to be held at 11am on Tuesday 23rd February 1999 at St John the Baptist Church, Guilden Sutton, Chester, followed by interment in the churchyard. Flowers or donations if desired in aid of Break Through for Breast Cancer would be appreciated. Enquiries and details to Dutton and Hallmark Funeral Services, 80 Faulkner Street, Hoole, Chester CH2 3BQ, tel: (01244) 310966.

LAWRENCE - Ming. Widow of Quentin Lawrence. After a short illness on 14th February 1999, aged 76 at the Salisbury Hospice. Dearly loved mother of Stephen, Christopher, Tiny, Penny, Suki, Paul and Philip. Devoted grandmother and mother-in-law. Funeral Service at Salisbury Crematorium, Thursday 25th February at 12.20 pm. No flowers please, but donations if desired to the Salisbury Hospice Care Trust, c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Griffin House, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury, Wilts.

MASSINGBERD-MUNDY - On February 17th 1999 after a brave battle against a brain tumour, Anne Margaret, much loved sister of Adrian. Funeral Service to take place at South Ormsby Church, near Louth, Lincolnshire at 2.30 pm on Thursday February 25th. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research Campaign.

MOORE - Geoffrey Herbert, Professor (Emeritus) of American Literature, acclaimed wonderful man of letters, died 5th February after a year of illness bravely borne. So much loved by daughter Georgina, son Peter, brother Derek and grandson Alexander. Burial Service Monday 22nd February 12.30pm at Morden Cemetery, Surrey. Flowers by 8.30 am on the day to Co-op Funeral Services, 2 Hendred Street, Cowley, Oxford. Memorial to be held later.

NELSON - Doris (Dodge), loving mother of Christopher and Richard and grandmother to Sarah, Victoria, Paul, James and William. Died peacefully in hospital on 18th February following a short illness. Cremation at Oakley Wood, Warwick at 2.30 pm 24th February. Family flowers only.

PANK - Edith Nancie Lovell, elder Daughter of the late Dr and Mrs H.W. Pank, died at home in Radlett, Hertfordshire, on 11th February. Funeral Service at Garston Crematorium at 3.00pm on Tuesday, 23rd February. No flowers by request.

RIMMER - Don formerly of Southport, suddenly on February 17th aged 61. Enquiries to Farnham Funeral Service 01252 711444.

RUTHVEN-MURRAY - Barbara Anne MBE died at Eastbourne Hospital on February 9th aged 85. Cremation 11.15 am at Eastbourne Crematorium on February 22nd.

SCOTT - On 9th February 1999 at Hambledon, Hampshire, David Barclay Houstoun. Husband of the late Doreen (née Salmond). At his request this notice follows a private cremation. Please no letters.

SECRETAN - Wing Commander Dennis Secretan DFC of Horsell, died peacefully on February 16th 1999 aged 78. Deeply missed husband of his wife Jajuk, loving father of John, Julie and Michael and much loved and adored granddad. Funeral Service at Woking Crematorium Wednesday 24th February at 11 am.

SHEPHERD - Jill, peacefully at King Edward VII Hospital on 16th February 1999. Beloved mother of Peter and Julia, much loved grandmother of Mark, Gemma, Toby and Nicholas. Funeral to take place at Milland Parish Church (old A3), on Monday 22nd February 1999 at 10.30 am. To be followed by private cremation. Enquiries to L.F. Lintott and Son 01730 813264.

STEWART - Ludovick Drumin died peacefully at his home in Cambridge on Tuesday February 16th 1999 aged 90 years. Funeral Service at Cambridge Crematorium on Tuesday February 23rd at 1.45 pm. No flowers but donations for The Cambridge Holiday Orchestra Association would be appreciated.

STRANG - Suddenly, but peacefully on 12th February 1999 at his home in Ampthill, formerly of Ladybank, Fife, Ian Gourlay Strang B.Sc., C.Eng., MIMech.E., AFRAeS. Only son of the late John and Catherine Strang and beloved brother of Catherine. Funeral Service takes place on Monday 22nd February, 10.45am at Norse Road Crematorium, Bedford. Flowers or donations for the London Symphony Orchestra Endowment Trust may be sent c/o Neville Funeral Service, The Old Church, Flitwick Road, Ampthill, Bedfordshire MK45 2NT. Tel 01525 406132.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FINLAYSON - Graham. A Memorial Service for the much loved husband of Peggie will be held at St Andrew's Church, Mottisfont, Hampshire on Friday 26th February at 3pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

PRITCHARD-GORDON - James. In our thoughts. Mother, Nicholas and Nell.

OBITUARIES

LORD DUNSANY

Lord Dunsany, Irish landowner, died on February 6 aged 92. He was born at Dunsany, Co Meath, on August 25, 1906.

In public estimation Randal Plunkett, 19th Lord Dunsany in the peerage of Ireland, probably lived most of his life in the shadow of his famous father Edward, the dramatist and short-story writer, whom he succeeded in 1957. He pursued a military career in India and was a veteran of both battles of Alamein. After the war he was based on the family estate in Co Meath where Ascendancy life was maintained with much of its old style and given a cosmopolitan dimension. He was an acute observer of the passing scene and an entertaining talker with a facility for striking pronouncements and *bons mots*. While his life may not have been marked by outstanding achievements, he was a man who counted in any company.

The young Randal Plunkett was nine years of age when the Easter Rebellion of 1916, that was to transform Irish life, took place. His father went off to fight the rebels in Dublin and was wounded, while Randal marched around Dunsany Castle proclaiming "We are all Free Irish now" and busied himself building a dug-out. During the Troubles that followed Dunsany Castle was saved from burning by Toomey, a faithful retainer who was also active in the IRA. The hunting went on. "The young Lord is a terror to go," a local farmer was heard to remark at a meet.

After Eton, Plunkett joined the Lancers for a couple of years before getting himself accepted in the Indian Cavalry while on a trip to the sub-continent. He was decorated for service on the North West Frontier where skirmishing with local tribes rarely ceased. He was fond of likening it to the turbulence that his forebears had endured over the centuries from the native Irish at the edge of the English Pale. A natural cosmopolitan, he had warm relations with the Indians. General Zia ul-Haq, the future President of Pakistan, was his subaltern and a lifelong friend.

Plunkett was a fine polo player and he enjoyed his bachelor life on the Indian sub-continent to the limit and perhaps, on occasion, beyond it. "We Plunketts," he declared, "are thought to be rather good-looking; at least women think so; of course, they may be wrong." He was 33 when he married, in 1938, Mrs Vera Bryce, the daughter of Dr Genesio de Sà Sottomaior of São Paulo. She moved to Brazil shortly after the outbreak of war and he did not see their only child Edward until 1946 when he was six.



"We Plunketts are thought rather good-looking": Dunsany in cavalry days

Plunkett served on the North West Frontier during the first years of the war when there were fears of an invasion through this ancient centre of Anglo-Russian conflict. But Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union changed all that, and he was among the troops moved into the Middle East under Auchinlek's command to fight Rommel. He distinguished himself at the First Battle of Alamein in July 1942, when, by following the camel tracks, he led his regiment in a rearguard action through the Qattara Depression previously considered impassable to motor vehicles.

He retired from the Army when the Raj came to an end in 1947. His first marriage did not survive the long separation of the war years and in 1947 he married Sheila, the daughter of Sir Henry Phillips, Bt. They settled in Ireland at Dunsany Castle. Dunsany eschewed the splendid isolation espoused by many Ascendancy families. He was above petty snobbery and never a man for cliques: he walked alone and always made up his own mind on people and events.

Belonging to a family that had been in Ireland before the Normans and had survived many vicissitudes despite being often on the losing side, he was clear that he still had a place in Irish life. Dunsany Castle was a centre of tasteful and relaxed hospitality, much frequented by visiting diplomats, distinguished foreigners and by the more urbane elements in the official and artistic life of the Irish Republic.

Less relaxing, perhaps, were the shooting parties as Dunsany's enthusiasm and occasional irascibility sometimes struck fear into his companions. Until he was finally disabled by a series of accidents in his late eighties he thought nothing of driving miles to social gatherings and always retained about him an engaging naughtiness. Of robust constitution he was clear that, like Winston Churchill, he had done more harm to alcohol than it had ever done to him. He held himself splendidly erect, exuding both defiance and a winning warmth.

In 1975 Dunsany had a new experience when his collateral 17th-century ancestor, Oliver Plunkett, the martyred Archbishop of Armagh, was canonised. He was the proud possessor of the Archbishop's ring and was much involved in the ceremonies and celebrations; he gave a party to mark the event at the Caccia Club in Rome. It amused him that after a life that had not been exactly saintly he, a baptised Protestant of agnostic tendency, could blend so effortlessly with cardinals and other elder statesmen of the Church in Rome. Since 1962 he had been the Grand Bailiff of the Irish Bailiwick of the ecumenical Order of St Lazarus, which does valuable work in aid of the treatment of leprosy.

Dunsany is succeeded in the ancient Irish baronies of Dunsany and Killeen (the latter of which he inherited in 1984 from his Plunkett kinsman the last Earl of Fingall) by his son Edward Plunkett, who lives at Dunsany with his wife and two sons and is an accomplished artist. Dunsany is survived also by his second wife Sheila and by a daughter Beatrice, the only child of their marriage.

NINA STANGER

Nina Stanger, lawyer, died of a pulmonary embolism at her home near Florence on January 30 aged 55. She was born on August 6, 1943.

THE vivid personality of Nina Stanger — calm and serene, full of fun and subtle irony, shrewd, fiercely tough-minded and endlessly curious — made a strong and lasting impact on all who encountered her. After a spectacular career as a rising star in a male-dominated Bar, she chose to use her energies in many directions, central among them the upbringing of her three children in Britain and then Italy. Having been admitted to the New York Bar, she was looking forward to renewing her legal career in Britain and the United States.

Daughter of Shep and Polly Stanger, she was raised, with her two sisters and brother, in Kent, studied law at the LSE and was called to the Bar at the age of 21. She soon became famous in a number of prominent cases, defending the squatters at 144 Piccadilly (the "street people", as she called them), the protesters against the Miss World contest, the Angry Brigade, Astrid Proll, and the Price Sisters.

She represented student protesters at Essex and went to Oxford in 1974 to defend students charged with occupying the Indian Institute. There she met Steven Lukes, then a Balliol don sympathetic to the students (though not to the occupation). They later married and travelled widely, largely under her impulsion, to North and South America, Eastern Europe, South Africa, the Middle East, Pakistan and India.

Everywhere she went she made immediate contact with people at the cutting edge — lawyers, activists, dissidents, journalists — and she often attended local courts. On one occasion in Brazil her mere presence secured the release of a sailor at a military court.

In 1975 she inspired the founding of the British-Kurdish Friendship Society, seeing the Kurds as no less deserving of public attention than the Palestinians.

She flourished in her Hampstead and Oxford homes, while active as a barrister all around the country, always a defence counsel, usually of vulnerable people in trouble, on legal aid and often unpaid. She devoted the rest of her time to her young children and attracted many friends.

Stanger: shrewd and fiercely tough-minded

In 1987 the family moved to Florence (again under her impulsion). She took them touring, became deeply knowledgeable about Renaissance art and took a close interest in her children's excellent classical education. She became increasingly interested in the Italian criminal justice system and the debates about its reform. She also promoted discussion of the English system, organising and participating in conferences and arranging visiting lectures.

At the time of her death she was attending and closely observing a remarkable murder trial involving students at Rome University's Institute for the Philosophy of Law that was to be the focus of a book about Italy she was planning to write with her husband.

She was passionately interested in politics, but wholly uninterested in ideologies. The labyrinthine complexities of Italian political life fascinated her. She admired the "Clean Hands" magistrates (especially Antonio di Pietro) but doubted that much had been cleansed. About new Labour, its leading lights and their acolytes, she was devastatingly sardonic.

She was Eurosceptic, indeed thoroughly Eurohostile, on an issue she knew and cared about: the effects of closer European ties on British justice. She feared that the project enshrined in the document *Corpus Juris* would lead to a uniform "inquisitorial" criminal justice system across Europe. As an upholder of the virtues of the English jury, she deplored political moves to diminish its role.

She was a consummate cross-examiner, and not only in court. She would interrogate witnesses with rare intensity on matters cultural, political or legal, and to hear her was exhilarating. Her conversation was fuelled by her wide-ranging interests in painting, sculpture, music (especially early music), classical mythology, the cinema and literature (particularly Shakespeare, Restoration drama, Keats, Byron, Wilde, Gide, Joe Orton). She also followed political developments in many countries with close attention.

She had a sharp satirical wit, and gave hilarious private nicknames, usually literary, to its many objects. She was also a mischievous, and brilliant, practical joker. She had started to write stories, plays and a novel when suddenly silenced.

She is survived by her husband Steven and by their two sons and a daughter.

WALLY COLE

Wally Cole at work in his studio

Wally Cole, MBE, potter, died on January 19 aged 85. He was born on January 21, 1913.

KNOWN before the war mainly as a sculptor, Wally Cole became better established as a craft potter, refounding the Rye Pottery, which became one of the town's attractions.

Walter Vivian Cole was one of eight children, the son of a foreman at Woolwich Arsenal, and his artistic talent won him a scholarship at the age of 16, which he used to study sculpture and other crafts for six years under the sculptor John Skeaping, the husband of Barbara Hepworth, first at the Woolwich Polytechnic, and then, from 1931, at the Central School of Arts and Crafts.

Before the Second World War, working as Vivian Cole, he built a reputation mainly as a sculptor. His first exhibition — of modernist carvings, drawings and pots — was at the Bloomsbury Gallery in 1932, and was attended by Epstein, Moore, Ben Nicholson and the great collector Jim Ede, who bought an ivory torso. This marked the beginning of a frenetic period of productivity, when in short order Cole joined the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the National Society of Painters, Sculptors, Engravers and Potters.

Luckily, there were annual exhibitions at the National Society and Zwemmer's, and public and private commissions were forthcoming, including one from Julian Huxley for tiles to identify the birds at London Zoo. Cole also worked as an assistant to Skeaping and, from 1936, to Eric Kennington, with whom he made the figure of Athene high on the façade of Liverpool University Library.

Cole's other collaborator was his brother John, with whom he built a kiln, to which they would ferry their work on the back of a bicycle for firing with quartz glaze. In 1937 they showed stoneware and earthenware pieces together at the short-lived but idealistic Brygos Gallery.

During the war Cole served in camouflage units and was wounded at Dunkirk. After the war, he returned to the Central School, to teach the then innovative subject of industrial design, and became a founder of the Design Council.

The Cole brothers set about producing table and kitchenware using industrial processes. They bought the Belle Vue Pottery in Rye in 1947, renaming it the Rye Pottery, where the emphasis was on lines of highly glazed earthenware for everyday use. At the time, with a government export drive in progress, only whiteware could be made for use in Britain, but the Coles evaded this restriction by using coloured slips for decoration.

In the 1950s Cole helped to establish the Craftsmen Potters Association, and when the restrictions on what could be produced were finally lifted, the Rye Pottery diversified, achieving a partly mechanised output of high-quality majolica with striking, vibrant patterns such as the influential "festival star" motif. Wally Cole shaped the pieces, while John designed the decorations.

The Coles' particular interest was in the combination of craft and industry, and this was reflected in their use of different techniques. The pottery's reputation grew, generations of apprentices went on to be potters in their own right, and Rye ware was to be found in London at Liberty's and Heal's, and in New York at Tiffany's.

Wally Cole handed on the running of the Rye Pottery to his son in 1978, but he continued to make pots for his own satisfaction for a further twenty years. A retrospective exhibition was held in 1993.

He was appointed MBE in 1982. His wife Eileen and their son and daughter survive him.

PROFESSOR HORACE ROSE

Horace Rose, Professor of Powder Technology at King's College London, died on January 19 aged 85. He was born on May 30, 1913.

POWDERS are important in a whole range of industrial processes, from those involving foods and pharmaceuticals to metals. Very fine powders, in the form of particulates, also need to be studied as pollutants. Horace Rose's work on powders has found applications in the mining industry and elsewhere in reducing the dangers of explosion in dust-laden atmospheres, and in reducing the dangers of inhalation of powders. Rose also studied the mixing of powders, which is important in the manufacture of tablets for medical purposes, to ensure the uniform distribution of a drug through the inert medium.

Horace Edgar Rose was born in Cornwall and received his early education at a village school in Devon. A very intelligent and ambitious boy, he left school when he was 14 and moved to London, where he was apprenticed to a firm of printers.

He attended evening classes at the Regent Street Polytechnic, and in due course was awarded his scholarship to read engineering at the City and Guilds College (now Imperial College, London). There he took a first in mechanical and electrical engineering before taking up an assistant lectureship at Manchester University, where he also gained a doctorate.

Joining the civil and mechanical engineering department at King's College London in 1944, he began his life's work in the field of powder science. Over the next 33 years, Rose investigated a whole range of problems in powder technology, publishing more than 200 scientific papers and four monographs. The first of these, *The Measurement of Particle Size in very Fine Powders*, established him as an international authority, and he was invited to lecture extensively abroad. His other three books were concerned with different types of milling processes and electrostatic precipitation. He became Professor of Powder Technology in 1961.



Powder science was not generally included in undergraduate courses in mechanical engineering at British universities, but Rose introduced an optional course in the subject at King's College, and established a highly regarded MSc course. Laboratory space was at a premium at the Strand campus of the college, but Rose made good use of the facilities available to him and was able to attract students of high quality to assist in his research. He worked them hard, but was highly supportive of the deserving — perhaps recalling his own early struggles.

Though a man of forthright opinions, he was not inclined to engage in university politics, being happier to pursue his research. He was the recipient of prizes from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1946 and 1950, and was the first non-American to be presented with the Hal Williams Hardinge Prize by the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers in 1965. He became a Fellow of King's in 1974.

Rose was a very practical engineer, with his own workshop at home, and his retirement in 1978 gave him the opportunity to develop his interest in clocks, which he both restored and built. He also wrote papers on horology, and became the only non-professional clockmaker to be made a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers.

He is survived by his wife Yda, whom he married in 1947, and by their three sons and a daughter.

THE GOLF COURSES OF THE RIVIERA

ON THIS DAY

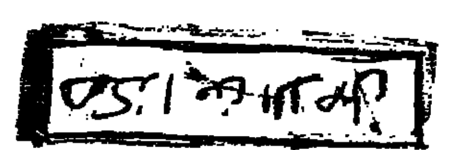
February 19, 1913

Golf in February on the Riviera was a far cry from golf at, say, St Andrews in the winter. Flannels, white shoes and the lazy and pleasant play of a mid-summer day.

To play golf in flannels and white shoes and be too hot at that, to see the ball bouncing gaily over a bunker that one deemed far out of reach, to abandon pitching as too risky and play the run up shot as prayerfully as if it were to a hard-baked 17th at St. Andrews, to put as on the glassy slopes of Point-Garry — this is a very different game from the golf of mittens and woolly waistcoats, of mud and slush and casual water that is now being played at home. It must seem a somewhat obvious thing to say, and rather too much in the nature of rubbing it in: — "Gentlemen in England now abed" may think themselves too bitterly accurst they are not here. Yet it is a remark that is absolutely essential in trying to describe golf in the Riviera. It is not, as I had in my ignorance imagined, the golf of an eternally fine winter's day or even of a spring day, but it is the golf of high mid-summer that one plays, very lazily and pleasantly, in this enchanted country — a country in which it is actually hard to find any one to play anything but a foursome after luncheon.

We dropped, as it were, from the skies on Costebelle in the early freshness of the morning, a morning so hot and sunshiny and so filled with scents and drowsy buzzings as, coming on the top of the sleepless joltings of a night journey, to make golf too ridiculous a pursuit to contemplate for one moment. The next day, however, we were strong enough to withstand the lure of the palm trees and plunge down the steep hill-side by the zig-zag path leading from the three hotels, which constitute the whole of Costebelle, to the links below. The mountains may be said to look on Costebelle and Costebelle looks on the sea, but the course does not, being separated from it by a thick wood of firs. It looks, however, on many pleasant things, lying as it does in the middle of a big circle of hills . . . It looks also at Hyères, a town of tall, slim, white houses, wonderfully clean in the sunlight and giving the odd impression of tumbling up hill towards the old chateau at the top of the rock. Hyères, by the way, has a much older golf course than Costebelle.

Costebelle is a curious and deceitful course, perfectly flat, at first sight featureless with just here and there a bunker or a willow tree, holding out no more than the dubious promise of being like one rather dull and marshy inland course near London — to specify which would be an indiscretion. As a matter of fact the moment one comes to play over it one realises that it is a very great deal better. With but a little rein given to fancy one can see a resemblance between Costebelle and Hoylake; though of course Costebelle is not a seaside course. Costebelle shows us the apotheosis of the ditch — "le deetch", as it is called by our little olive-faced caddie, in a tone of true gloating triumph as the adversary's ball plumps into it. There are innumerable ditches sometimes made the more picturesque by pollarded willows, sometimes backed by feathery bamboos: ditches to right of us, ditches to left of us and to strike the tee shot straight and true between them time after time needs a man and a golfer . . .



NEWS

Ministers try to halt GM food fears

■ Five Cabinet Ministers joined forces last night in an unprecedented offensive to meet public concern over genetically modified food and crops.

After a week on the back foot and amid Government confusion, John Prescott and four Cabinet colleagues most closely involved in the controversy over so-called Frankenstein foods wrote to every MP in an attempt to calm the sudden outbreak of public and media concern........Page 1

Police to be bound by anti-race laws

■ The police are to be brought within Britain's anti-race laws under plans for far-reaching reforms to reassure ethnic minorities in the wake of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. A powerful new body to investigate racial, sexual and disability discrimination is being considered by Ministers........Page 1

Kurds surrender

The occupation of the Greek Embassy in London ended peacefully, after almost 60 hours, when 77 Kurdish demonstrators surrendered to police.......Pages 1, 14-15

TV quiz redfaced

Countdown, the genteel quiz programme, has been forced to own up to a guilty secret — guests are prompted by experts........Page 1

Assault payout

An assault victim who developed a crippling fear of black people was awarded £575,000 by a High Court judge who told him to move to the country to avoid meeting people of Afro-Caribbean origin........Page 3

Snow hole saviour

A father and his teenage son were recovering from severe frostbite after surviving three days and nights huddled in a tiny snow hole trapped by blizzards in the Cairngorm mountains......Page 4

Mums threaten to sue

Six mothers who claim they unwittingly became "guinea-pigs" in an experimental treatment for ventilating premature babies are threatening to sue an NHS trust hospital........Page 6

Churches protected

A concrete convent and a church with stainless steel fittings are among the modern churches listed on the advice of English Heritage........Page 8

Tribe adopts builders

Five builders from Somerset have been made elders of an East African tribe after spending their holiday building a classroom in a remote village........Page 9

Poverty audit pledge

Alistair Darling has promised to publish an annual poverty audit, but declined to specify who should be officially classified as poor........Page 10

Kidney donor rise

The number of live kidney donors in Britain grew by 38 per cent last year. The unexpected increase enabled 241 patients to be given a kidney from a living donor, up from 173 in 1997........Page 11

Population plunge

North Korea's population has plunged more than 500,000 a year over the past four years — due mainly to starvation and disease, but also to defection, South Korea's intelligence agency has claimed........Page 16

Belgrade evacuated

Western nations called on their citizens to leave Yugoslavia, and began evacuating embassies, clearly anticipating that the Kosovo peace talks in Rambouillet are on the verge of breakdown...Page 17

Black hero pardoned

A black American hero who fell victim to racism more than a century ago will be exonerated at the White House........Page 18

Japanese breaks the nanny mould

The Norland College, which has trained nannies for the Princess Royal, the Duchess of York and Mick Jagger, has broken with 100 years of tradition to take its first male student. Katsuki Yuzawa has swapped life in Japan, where he has spent the past four years working at his parents' private nursery, for starched uniforms and Silver Cross prams........Page 11

STEPHEN WILSON / PACEMAKER



David Trimble, the First Minister for Northern Ireland, greets the US Ambassadors Michael Sullivan, left, and Philip Lader at Stormont

Price cut: William Hill, the bookmaker, cut its flotation price after UK financial institutions gave it a cool reception........Page 27

Windfall payment: Halifax, the former building society, is planning to pay out a total of £1.5 billion to its 3.5 million shareholders in a bid to greatly reduce its cash stockpile........Page 27

Treasury gains: Compensation paid to reinstate public sector workers in their pension funds has bolstered public coffers by around £1 billion........Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 3.5 points to 6074.9. The pound fell 0.23 cents to $1.6335 and 0.01p against the euro to 68.69p. The sterling index remained unchanged at 101.3........Page 30

Football: The temporary England coach Kevin Keegan outlined his plans for the crucial four-game period that he hopes will end in qualification for the European Championship........Page 52

Rugby union: Jonathan Wilkinson, the 19-year-old who makes his Five Nations Championship debut tomorrow, has received solid seals of approval........Page 48

Tennis: Greg Rusedski enjoyed a tally of a dozen aces in his battle against Holland's Edwin Kempes as he progressed into the quarter-finals in Rotterdam........Page 50

Athletics: Britain's bid to stage the world championships at Wembley in 2003 faces mounting uncertainty as time is running short to get the stadium ready........Page 50

Happy anniversary: Fifty years ago it was touch and go whether Nottingham's Playhouse theatre would ever even be built. Today it is celebrating half a century as a trailblazer........Page 35

Discovering Elvis: Caitlin Moran spends 24 hours in the company of Elvis Presley in a heroic effort to discover the truth about the king of rock'n'roll........Page 36

Sneak preview: Blur lifts the lid on their new release *13*, which looks set to be a candidate for album of the year........Page 37

Pop albums: Sebadoh are showing definite signs of ambition with their impressive seventh album, *The Sebadoh;* Barenaked Ladies strike a chord with *Stunt;* plus other new releases........Page 37

Teen turmoil: Teenagers are still idealistic enough to believe that their dreams will come true if they only fight hard enough......Page 19

Loosening up: Dress-down Friday is now part of our lifestyle. But why do we Brits think we can copy American casualness?......Page 20

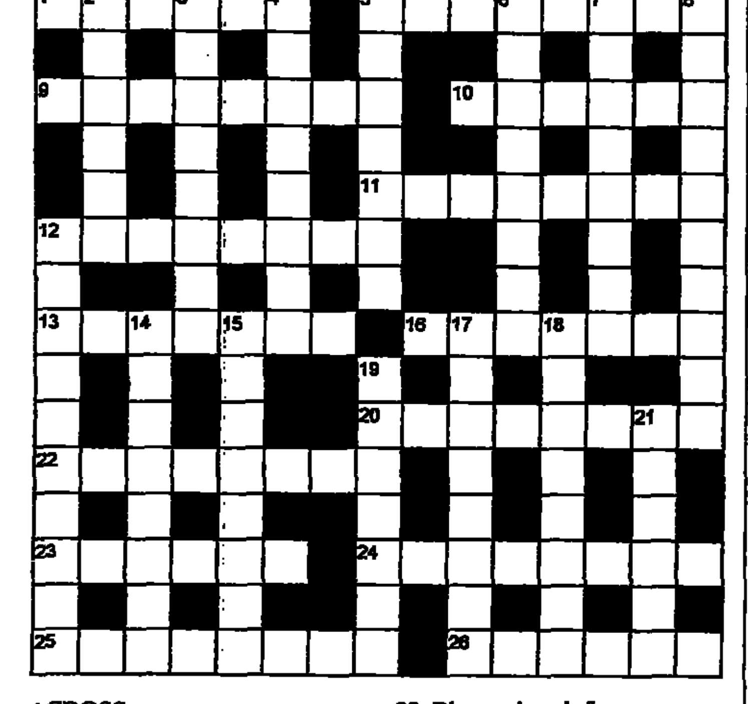
Such a trial: The child psychotherapist Asha Phillips looks at the trials of adolescence........Page 21

Irish answers: The television journalist Peter Taylor, reveals the difficulties of persuading Protestant paramilitaries to talk to the camera about what they did........Page 38

Primary lesson: How should parents go about finding a good primary school for their child? Rule 1, visit each prospective school during a normal working day........Page 43

Our country is once again regrettably embroiled in an international incident and suffering the consequences of a conflict with which it has absolutely nothing to do . . . It is a matter of great urgency that the loopholes that enable dangerous foreigners to slip easily into the country be plugged now. Our internal security must come before any other consideration, including diplomacy.

Daily Nation, Kenya



TOMORROW

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

■ **MAGAZINE**
When Simon met Peggy — an extraordinary love story

■ **MONEY GUIDE**
Free: 16 pages of the smartest tax-free savings schemes

Preview: Lady Tavistock causes a stir in *Country House* (BBC2, 7.30pm) **Review:** Paul Hoggart on GM dramas........Pages 50, 51

Food wars

Like other sudden scientific advances, the development of GM crops has been unsettling. If the Prime Minister wishes to lead in Europe, his Government should stand fast now........Page 23

Kurds in Greece

Greece has brought this catastrophe on its own head. Its support for Abdullah Ocalan is a result of short-sighted policies........Page 23

War in the Horn

Victory is impossible. Neither side is likely to shift positions on the OAU plan without substantial external pressure........Page 23

PETER RIDDELL

Good chaps know how to behave sensibly, especially if they are judges. That was the gist of much of a debate in the Lords about the separation of powers........Page 10

SIMON JENKINS

Nobody can tell which massacres are fit for Britain's moral crusade. Why Sierra Leone and Kosovo and not the Congo, Sudan, Eritrea or Afghanistan ... Mr Cook's moral empire is that of the fidget. Its colonies as unpredictable as they are transient........Page 22

D ALEXANDER

What neither the Tories nor the Nationalists can reconcile themselves to is that pride in Scottishness or Welshness does not require an end of Britishness........Page 22

PHILIP HOWARD

But the notion that English is going to the dogs is no more than defecation by a miniature poodle. The miniature turn your back on such crap, she does a poodle......Page 22

Lord Dunsany, Irish landowner; **Nina Stanger**, lawyer; **Wally Cole**, MBE, potter; **Professor Horace Rose**, Professor of Powder Technology at King's College........Page 25

Questions raised by GM crops; "secrecy" on doctors' standards; Tories and compassion; heeding health risks; benefits of burning forests; stressed foxes; OUP's scholarly record; Shrove Tuesday......Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,031

ACROSS

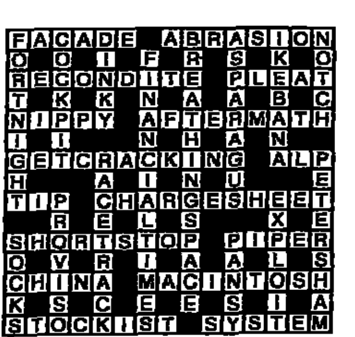
1 Bill boarding a vehicle? You can count on it (6).
5 Weight of type a striking clock needed (4,4).
9 A jolly person presiding has support from both sides (8).
10 Mystical old Conservative sect (6).
11 Hard worker importing trees for director on board (8).
12 Volatile town leader removed (8).
13 Distinctions given by King and Queen, amongst others (7).
16 Cancel score (7).
20 Dance girl's dress pattern (5,3).
22 Hair style seen in college gathering (4,4).
23 Blame church for movement that's out of control (6).
24 Is one of the Brontes associated with a tragic heroine? (8).
25 Got heated, but didn't go over the top (8).
26 Land in East, say (6).

DOWN

2 Responsibility for chorus (6).
3 Mate also keeps a parrot (8).
4 Vacancy's created when one's depressed (5-3).
5 Townsman's meat dish containing horse (7).
6 End of the twelve times table (8).
7 Point of meeting is a planned announcement about raising boat (8).
8 Be greatly surprised and use a tone shattering some, but not all (3,4,3).
12 The Sûreté's exotic female escorts (10).
14 It provides jobs for the boys, relatively speaking (8).
15 Singular sort of transport to take academic round? (8).
17 Cook bet Alice is not the marrying sort (8).
18 Treated a peasant's foot (8).
19 Made request for a very soft song (7).
21 Way to escape old-fashioned obstruction (6).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

Solution to Puzzle No 21,030



```
FACADE ABRASION
O O I F R S K O
RECONDITE PLEAT
T K K N A A B C
NIPPY AFTERMATH
I I N H A N
GETCRACKING ALP
H A I N U E
TIP CHARGESHEET
R E L S X E
SHORTSTOP PIPER
O V R I A A L S
CHINA MACINTOSH
K S C E E S I A
STOCKIST SYSTEM
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Sun rises: 7.07 am
Sun sets: 5.22 pm
Moon sets: 9.30 pm
Moon rises: 8.48 am
First quarter: February 23rd

London 5.22 pm to 7.05 am
Bristol 5.32 pm to 7.15 am
Edinburgh 5.25 pm to 7.28 am
Manchester 5.26 pm to 7.18 am
Penzance 5.46 pm to 7.25 am

☐ **General:** southern and eastern England will start dull and wet. Sunny spells will soon develop but rain is set to return towards evening. Elsewhere in England and Wales, rain will clear to leave sunny spells and showers. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have increasingly wintry showers.

☐ **London, SE & Central S England, Channel Islands:** mild but dull, wet and windy at first. Brighter but colder weather spreading S. Wind fresh, W. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **E Anglia, Central N & E England:** rain clearing, some decent sunny spells. Wind fresh, SW, to moderate, W. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Midlands, N Wales, NW & NE England, Lake District:** rain clearing, sunny spells. Wind moderate, W. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales:** rain clearing, some sunshine, then evening rain. Wind moderate, W to NW. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Isle of Man, N Ireland:** sunny spells and showers. Wind fresh, W. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** rain clearing, then showers and sunny spells. Wind fresh, W. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **SW, NE & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** showers turning to sleet or snow, especially over higher ground. Wind strong, W. Max 8C (46F).

☐ Republic of Ireland: showers with fine spells. Wind fresh, W. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** sunshine and showers. Wetter in western Scotland and Northern Ireland.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	0.8	0.02	10	50	c
Anglesey	0.4	0.01	9	48	c
Aspatria	-	0.15	9	48	r
Aviemore	0.5	0.05	8	46	c
Belfast	-	0.01	10	50	r
Birmingham	0.2	0.13	10	50	b
Bognor R	4.2	0.04	12	54	s
Bournemth	3.6	0.01	12	54	s
Bristol	0.4	0.01	10	50	c
Buxton	-	0.50	8	46	c
Cardiff	0.2	0.01	11	52	d
Clacton	0.9	0.17	11	52	r
Cleethorpes	-	0.20	11	52	r
Colwyn Bay	0.2	0.21	11	52	c
Cromer	-	0.09	10	50	fg
Edinburgh	0.2	0.14	11	52	d
Eskdalemuir	-	0.35	8	46	r
Exmouth	0.1	0.01	11	52	c
Fishguard	1.1	0.01	9	48	r
Folkestone	0.7	0.07	12	54	c
Glasgow	-	0.28	10	50	r
Guernsey	1.1	0.01	13	55	c
Hastings	0.9	0.04	13	55	b
Hayling I.	2.9	0.02	12	54	s
Herne Bay	0.8	0.06	11	52	c
Hunstanton	-	0.13	8	46	c
Isle of Man	0.1	0.05	9	48	c
Isle of Wight	X	0.02	12	54	b
Jersey	1.7	0.01	12	54	c
Kinloss	0.6	0.02	11	52	b

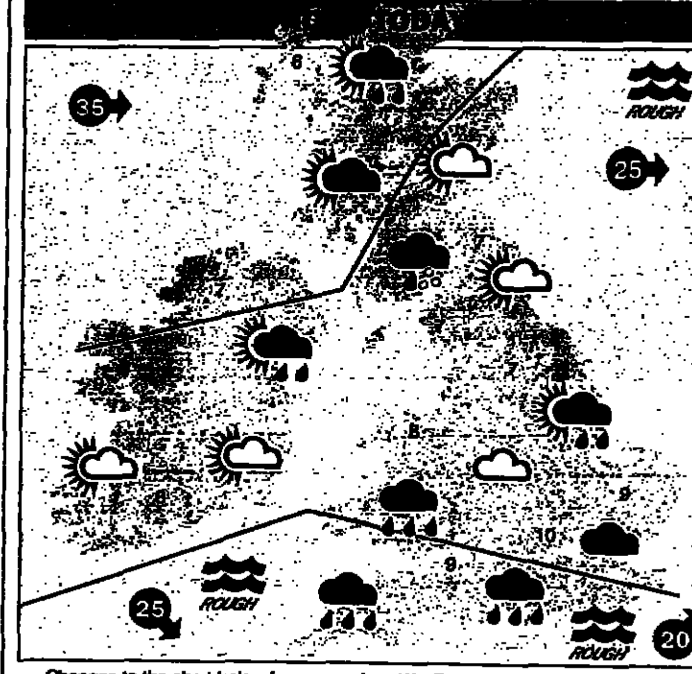
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Leeds	0.4	0.15	10	50	d
Lerwick	-	0.17	7	45	sn
Leuchars	0.2	0.03	10	50	c
London	0.6	0.09	12	54	c
Lowestoft	-	0.15	9	48	d
Manchester	-	0.24	10	50	c
Margate	-	0.11	10	50	du
Morecambe	-	0.23	8	46	r
Newcastle	-	0.20	10	50	r
Newquay	0.1	0.02	10	50	d
Norwich	-	0.14	11	52	d
Oxford	0.2	0.03	12	54	c
Penzance	0.2	0.01	12	54	d
Poole	-	0.02	13	55	c
Ross on Wye	0.3	-	12	54	c
Saunton Sands	1.8	-	11	52	b
Scarborough	0.8	0.10	10	50	c
Shrewsbury	0.8	0.05	11	52	c
Skegness	-	0.15	11	52	c
Southend	0.6	0.06	12	54	c
Southport	X	0.06	8	46	c
Southsea	3.9	0.01	12	54	du
Stornoway	0.5	0.16	11	52	r
Swanage	1.0	0.01	12	54	c
Teignmouth	0.6	0.01	13	55	c
Tenby	0.9	0.01	10	50	d
Tiree	-	0.11	9	48	r
Torquay	0.4	-	13	55	du
Weymouth	0.2	0.01	10	50	c

Yesterday — hottest: Poole 13C (55F); Lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria 7C (45F); Wettest: Warcop, Cumbria 0.48ins; Sunniest: Bognor Regis 4.2 hours.

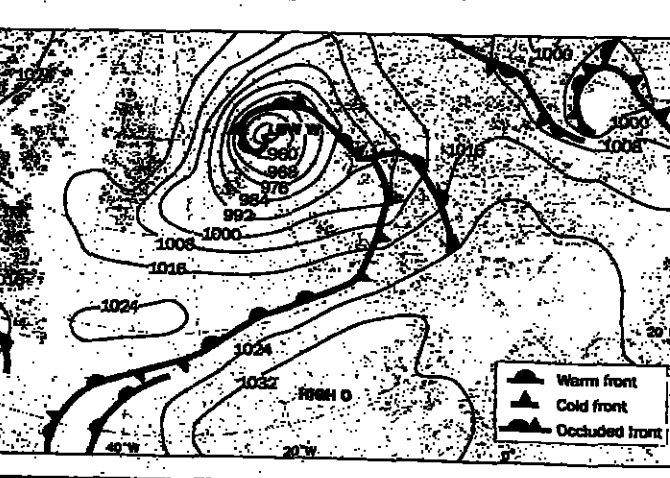
	C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	s
Akrotiri	16	61	f
Alex'dria	18	64	f
Algiers	15	59	f
Amst'dm	5	41	c
Athens	14	57	f
Bahrain	22	72	s
Bangkok	32	90	s
Barcelona	14	57	s
Beijing	-1	30	s
Beirut	17	63	f
Belgrade	3	37	f
Berlin	2	36	sn
Biarritz	11	52	c
Bordeaux	12	54	c
Brussels	7	45	c
Budapest	1	34	f
Cairo	20	68	s
Cape Tn	29	84	s
Ch'church	X		
Cologne	3	37	c
C'phagn	3	37	s
Corfu	11	52	f
Dublin	9	48	c
Dubrovnik	6	43	s
Faro	16	61	s
Florence	11	52	s
Frankfurt	2	36	c
Funchal	17	63	c
Geneva	3	37	sl
Gibraltar	18	64	s
Helsinki	-5	23	sn
Hong K	25	75	s
Innsbruck	-2	28	sn
Istanbul	9	48	f
Jeddah	32	90	s
L Palmas	19	66	f
Le Touquet	8	46	f
Lisbon	15	59	s
Locarno	8	46	s

	C	F	
Luxembg	3	37	c
Luxor	32	90	s
Madrid	12	54	s
Majorca	15	59	s
Malaga	17	63	s
Malta	14	57	f
Melbourne	X		
Milan	12	54	s
Moscow	0	32	s
Munich	0	32	sn
Nairobi	24	75	c
Naples	12	54	s
N Delhi	23	73	s
Nice	12	54	s
Oslo	1	34	s
Paris	10	50	c
Perth	X		
Prague	1	34	c
Reykjavik	0	32	sn
Rhodes	15	59	f
Rio de J	28	82	f
Riyadh	27	81	f
Rome	12	54	s
R'nldsway	9	48	c
Salzburg	0	32	c
Seoul	7	45	s
Singapore	30	86	f
Stockholm	1	34	s
Strasb'rg	4	39	c
Sydney	25	77	s
Tangier	X		
Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Tenerife	19	66	f
Tokyo	19	66	c
Tunis	13	55	r
Valencia	18	64	s
Venice	7	45	s
Vienna	2	35	c
Warsaw	-2	28	sn
Zurich	2	35	d

Temperatures at midday local time, yesterday. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: Low W will remain slow moving, filling very gradually. High O will remain in situ.



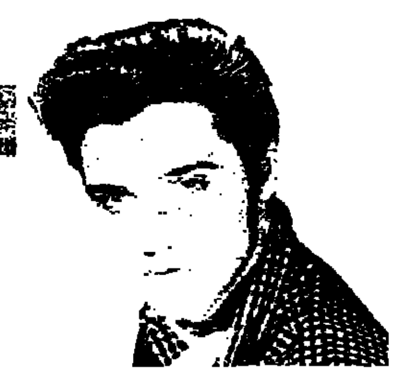
TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	3:17	4.3	15:23	4.5
Avonmouth	9:17	13.9	21:36	13.6
Belfast	0:46	3.4	13:00	3.7
Cardiff	9:03	12.8	21:22	12.6
Devonport	7:43	5.7	20:04	5.4
Dover	0:45	6.9	13:04	6.7
Dublin	1:17	4.0	13:29	4.3
Falmouth	7:14	5.5	19:35	5.2
Greenock	2:32	3.3	14:46	3.6
Harwich	1:42	4.1	14:07	4.1
Holyhead	0:03	5.6	12:21	5.9
Hull (Albert D)	8:18	8.6	20:28	9.2
Ilfracombe	8:03	9.6	20:21	9.4
King's Lynn	8:19	7.0	20:27	7.6
Leith	4:34	5.6	16:48	5.7

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	0:59	9.6	13:18	9.8
London Bridge	3:43	7.5	16:10	7.5
Lowestoft	11:36	2.4	23:39	2.6
Margate	1:46	4.9	14:19	4.8
Milford Haven	8:15	7.3	20:36	7.0
Newquay	7:07	7.3	19:29	7.0
Oban	7:43	4.2	19:54	3.9
Penzance	6:37	5.8	18:56	5.5
Portland	9:22	2.2	21:42	2.0
Portsmouth	1:09	4.8	13:21	4.7
Shoreham	1:05	6.5	13:15	6.4
Southampton	0:42	4.7	12:50	4.6
Swansea	8:17	12.6	20:37	12.3
Tees	5:44	10.0	17:51	10.2
Walton-On-Naze	1:29	4.3	13:56	4.3

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Life after Monica
Media Page 40

THE TIMES



Life With Elvis
Arts Page 36

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19 1999

2

Treasury's £1bn gain from mis-selling

THE unravelling of the pensions mis-selling scandal is bolstering the Treasury coffers by up to £1 billion. Compensation paid by pensions providers to people rejoining public sector schemes after being mis-sold personal pensions is flowing straight to the Treasury, adding to the surplus in the public accounts.

"This is effectively another windfall tax," claimed Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, last night. "People will want to know how this money is being used to help their pensions." He will be tabling questions in Parliament demanding that the Treasury discloses the extent of the funds it is gaining this way.

The Bill for settling the first phase of the huge project for compensating victims of mis-selling is already heading towards £4 billion and industry sources estimate that at least a quarter of that could go to the Treasury. This is because most of the public sector pension schemes, such as those serving nurses and teachers, are not funded, relying instead on the Government paying the pensions as they arise.

A spokesman at the Government Actuaries Department described the extra inflow of funds to the Treasury as "a nice little windfall in Gordon Brown's back pocket", estimating that virtually all the compensation from the first phase settlements would land with the Treasury in the current financial year. This week the Government revealed a net surplus of £12.4 billion in the public sector net cash requirement, leading the City to believe that Mr Brown would have the resources to deliver a relatively generous Budget next month.

The Treasury says it does not have details of how much cash it has received from the pensions providers. However, officials stressed that any compensation paid into public schemes would be fully recredited in future benefits to pensioners. They also pointed out that there would have been an outflow of funds from the Treasury when public sector workers opted out of their pension schemes and bought private pensions. But those payments would have been spread over several years and would have been very much smaller than the money now being paid in compensation.

Bacon & Woodrow, the pensions specialists, estimate that the final cost of settling the pensions mis-selling debacle could be as high as £22 billion although some industry estimates put the figure at half that. The firm estimates that the eventual benefit to the Treasury could be more than £3 billion. That may be an over-estimate. So far, the National Health Services fund, for instance, has received only £330 million but many more claims are still being processed.

Business Today



Prescriptions for the NHS
Would you buy shares in the health service?
page 31

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6074.9	(-3.5)
Yield	2.64%	
FTSE All Share	2779.17	(-3.13)
Nikkei	14146.79	(-11.82)
New York		
Dow Jones	9243.45	(+47.92)*
S&P Composite	1230.14	(+6.4)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4[illegible]%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	98[illegible]*	(99[illegible])
Yield	5.34%*	(5.31%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	n/a	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	116.98	(117.05)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6340*	(1.6358)
London:		
$	1.6335	(1.6358)
€	1.4556	(1.4562)
SFr	2.3266	(2.3271)
Yen	195.72	(194.48)
£ Index	101.3	(101.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.1225*	(1.1263)
SFr	1.4250*	(1.4205)
Yen	119.83*	(118.95)
$ index	106.6	(106.5)

Tokyo close Yen 118.67

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$10.40	($10.30)

GOLD

London close	$285.75	($284.75)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 28

William Hill forced to cut flotation price

BY DOMINIC WALSH

THE recent resurgence of interest in the new issues market was brought crashing to earth yesterday as William Hill, the high street bookmaker, was forced to cut the price of its proposed £900 million flotation.

Warburg Dillon Read, the broker to the listing, was left red-faced after a lack of institutional interest compelled it to cut the offer price to 135p, well below the company's indicative range of 155p to 175p. It is understood that the flotation was very close to being pulled altogether.

The lukewarm response from big investors was in stark contrast to that of the general public, who were invited to apply for at least £1,000 of shares. The four share shops involved in the the retail offer received more than 220,000 inquiries, and the number of shares available to small investors had been scaled up from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the total.

The new flotation price values the bookmaker at £780 million, including debts of £375 million, compared with the £840 million to £900 million range contained in the flotation prospectus — a huge blow to Nomura International, its Japanese owner. The reduction has cut its profit by £90 million, while the bookmaker's top directors, John Brown and Bob Lambert, have seen their personal windfalls more than halved to a combined £1.4 million.

Sources close to the process suggested last night that an aversion to the profits Nomura would have made on the deal was a big factor. At the middle price indicated by Warburg, Nomura would have made a profit of £170 million on its original investment of £200 million.

One source said: "The institutions were just not prepared to see Nomura turn that sort of profit in the space of just 15 months. This has huge implications for venture capitalists and other equity providers."

David Freud, managing director of Warburg Dillon Read, said recent events had shown the new issues market to be "extremely fragile".

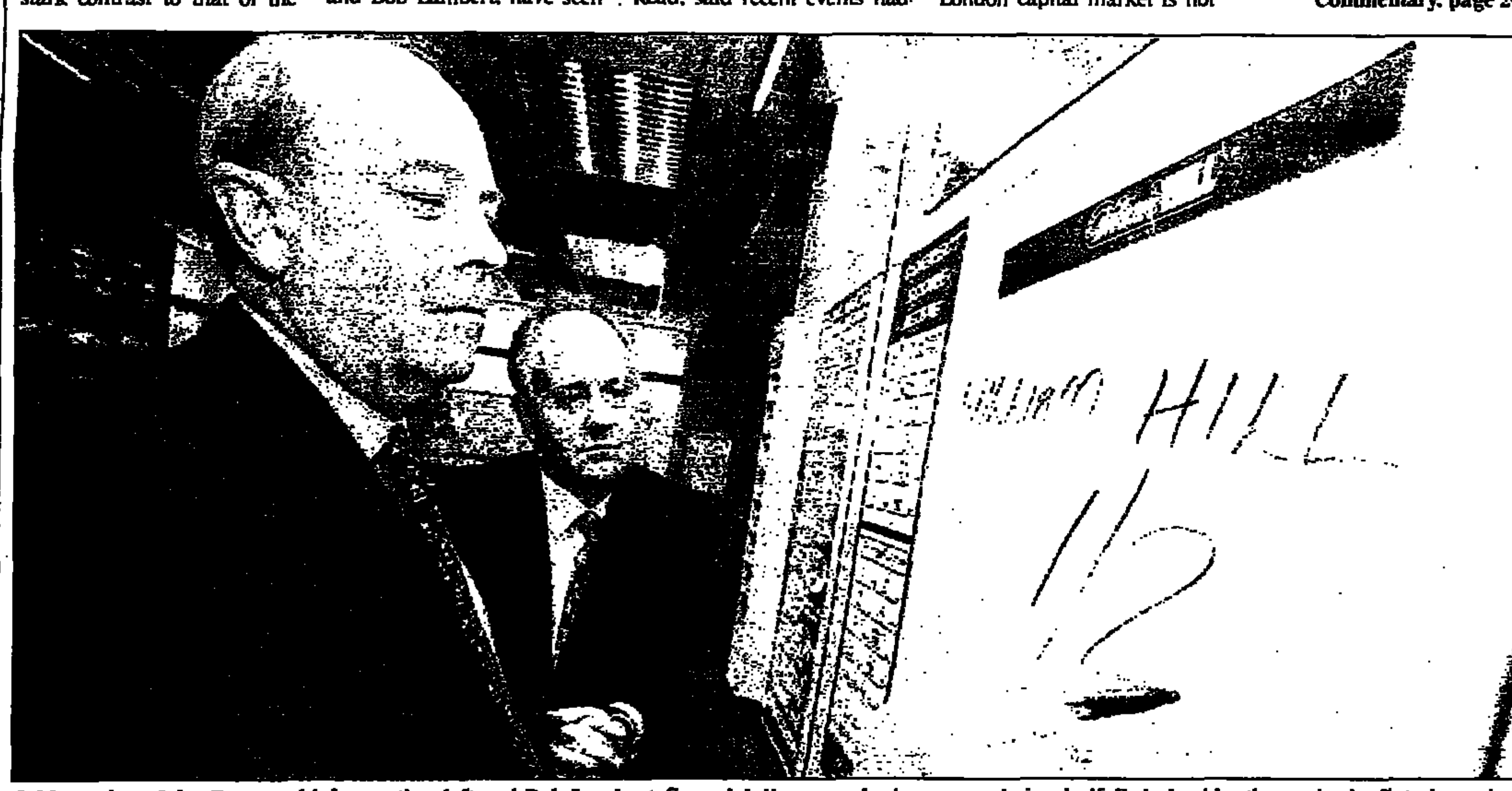
He pointed out that the share price of South African Breweries, which is moving its main listing to London, had fallen 15 per cent in Johannesburg over the past two weeks, although a spokesman for SAB said the roadshow had received "an encouraging response".

Mr Freud also linked William Hill's predicament to the difficulty of companies outside the FTSE 100 in attracting institutional support. He said: "It is extremely concerning that a good company with a solid management and good track record has to struggle like this. It is a concern if the London capital market is not going to be an efficient source of capital for businesses."

Other sources close to Warburg were more forthright, describing the reaction as "totally irrational". One insider said: "Even at 155p it was impossible to get institutions to see you, let alone discuss the merits of the company. It's all very embarrassing."

Although the shock price cut is a setback for William Hill and its advisers, it could mean tasty profits for those allotted shares when conditional trading starts on February 22. A source close to Warburg said that at the revised price it had experienced no difficulty in finding buyers.

Commentary, page 29



Odds against: John Brown, chief executive, left and Bob Lambert, financial director, who have seen their windfalls halved by the cut in the flotation price

Halifax offers investors fresh windfall

BY CAROLINE MERRELL
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HALIFAX plans to pay out a total of £1.5 billion to its 3.5 million shareholders.

The latest windfall was promised as the former building society reported that its profits for its first full year as a bank had risen by 7 per cent to £1.76 billion. However, the profit figure, after millennium costs and a £29 million provision for the pensions mis-selling review, was up only 3 per cent.

A shareholder with 350 shares should get £217 in June, although Halifax admitted that the scheme still needed to be approved by the Inland Revenue.

The bank hopes the payout will be treated as a capital payment by the Revenue, as this will mean most investors will not be liable to pay tax. If it is treated as an extra dividend, it will be subject to income tax.

James Crosby, Halifax's new chief executive, said the capital repayment would form part of the restructuring of the bank into four separate businesses under a new holding company. Under the capital repayment programme, for every 40 shares in Halifax, shareholders will be given 37 shares in the new company plus a payment of 62p a share.

Mr Crosby, who replaced Mike Blackburn at the beginning of the year, also laid out his plans for the bank, which has 21 million customers. Despite the payout, the bank still has excess cash of £1.5 billion.

Mr Crosby said that he hoped to deploy this within three years, either by returning it to shareholders or through making an acquisition. He said: "Our commitment to acquisition is unaffected by this programme. In no circumstances do we want to destroy the value of the business."

Halifax has acquired Clerical Medical and the Birmingham Midshires, the former building society. Mr Crosby said Halifax was interested in making a number of smaller acquisitions, rather than a big merger.

Halifax's share of net mortgage lending in the second half of the year was 11 per cent, but for the year as a whole it stood at just 5 per cent, reflecting increased competition from new players. Halifax's total market share of mortgages is 20 per cent.

Earnings per share increased by 9 per cent to 47.5p and total dividend was raised by 16 per cent to 20.25p.

Tempus, page 30
City Diary, page 31

Hopes of rate cut fall after retail sales leap

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

AGGRESSIVE January sales discounts lured shoppers back to the high street after dismal Christmas trading, according to figures published yesterday.

Retail sales volumes jumped by 1.1 per cent last month after falling by 0.8 per cent in December, according to the Office for National Statistics.

John O'Sullivan, economist with Greenwich NatWest, said: "Growth was driven primarily by strength in the clothing and footwear and household goods sectors, where price cuts were even larger than they were a year ago."

The City yesterday concluded that the figures were probably strong enough, along with this week's news of another fall in unemployment, to persuade the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee to leave interest rates unchanged next month.

However, the data still pointed to considerable relative weakness on the high street. Francesca Massone, a Goldman Sachs economist, said that taking December and January together gave a better indication of consumer demand. Sales growth over the two months was 1 per cent, still very weak compared with the 6 per cent recorded a year ago.

Taking the three months to January, volumes rose by only 1.5 per cent on the same period a year ago, the lowest quarterly increase for almost three years despite aggressive discounting in the sales.

The City remains confident that more interest rate cuts are on the way. A Treasury compilation of 28 independent forecasts yesterday showed that the average expectation is for underlying inflation to undershoot its 2.5 per cent target and stand at 2.2 per cent in the 1999 and 2000 fourth quarters.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, last night said that the MPC would consider cutting rates again if the world economic situation were to worsen. He also said that the MPC was "reasonably confident that the [British] slowdown will be relatively mild and short-lived".

Separate data yesterday showed bank and building society lending still growing steadily. The British Bankers' Association said total sterling lending to the private sector rose by £3.2 billion in January, in line with the average of recent months. The Building Societies Association said gross mortgage advances were £1.26 billion in January, against £1.49 billion in December, a rise after seasonal adjustment.

M4 broad money supply's year-on-year growth rate fell to 7.3 per cent in January, from 8 per cent in December.

3i restates interest in Electra

3I, the venture capital investment trust, yesterday reasserted its interest in buying its rival, the Electra Investment Trust (Robert Cole writes).

In a formal statement to the Stock Exchange 3i confirmed that it had indicated to Electra's board that it was willing to pay 705p a share for the company — or £1.2 billion in total.

It added: "3i remains interested in acquiring Electra, or its assets." A spokesman for Electra criticised the statement because it contained nothing new. He added that the 705p offer was "feeble in the extreme".

3i said that it was waiting for the Electra board to contact it to resume merger talks. However, the Electra spokesman said: "The ball is right at the back of 3i's court. All they need to do is look for it."

Re-affirmation of the takeover interest came a day after Electra proposed a plan to wind itself up, a proposal partly designed to counter 3i's bid.

Commentary page 29

PPP in hospital referrals dispute

BY JASON NISSÉ

PPP, the private healthcare company, faces protests by more than 300 leading consultants in a dispute over hospital referrals.

The London Consultants' Association, which represents 300 of the capital's top doctors, has written to PPP and the Office of Fair Trading protesting at PPP's policy of refusing to include many of London's private hospitals on its directory of approved centres. There are only ten Central London hospitals in the directory, four of which are owned by Columbia/PPP, a joint venture in which PPP has a 49 per cent stake.

The OFT will investigate the complaints as part of a wider inquiry into the provision of private health care in the UK. Doctors claim PPP and Bupa use their power as insurers to gain business.

The latest battle stems from PPP's refusal to include the new £45 million Heart Hospital in Harley Street in its directory. Anthony Rickards, a consultant cardiologist, has said that PPP's stand on the hospital could result in "clinical tragedy". He cited one case where PPP insisted that a patient was transferred to the Harley Street Clinic, a Colombia/PPP hospital, which was unable to treat him.

Adrian Bull, medical director of PPP, rejected the claims that PPP was restricting choice and potentially endangering life.

Arnault to sue Gucci over new shares

BY FRASER NELSON

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, is to sue Gucci in an attempt to prove that the Italian fashion house has illegally created new shares to stop him exerting any power on its board.

After five weeks of building up a 34.4 per cent stake in Gucci, M Arnault has decided to go hostile — ensuring he can appoint an LVMH-nominated director into its Milan head office.

Domenico De Sole, Gucci chief executive, yesterday created 20 million shares which will be controlled by a separate company trust — commanding a 25.6 per cent stake in his company.

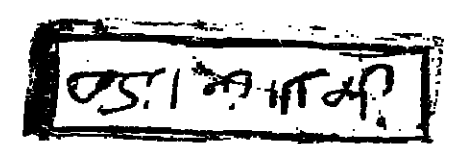
This dilutes LVMH's stake in Gucci from 34.5 per cent to an identical 25.6 per cent. This means the new trust can cancel any votes cast by LVMH when they decide whether to accept a new director.

Signor De Sole said: "M Arnault wants his director to be the eyes and ears of LVMH in Gucci. If he wants to make a full bid, we will talk to him. But if he does not, we must protect ourselves."

M Arnault believes that, under its Amsterdam listing laws, Gucci can only create new shares in the "shareholders' interests". He believes it has violated this condition.

LVMH owns a stable of luxury brands including Kenzo and Givenchy.

Unwanted designs, page 31



Rank bullish despite drop in profits

By Dominic Walsh

SIR DENYS HENDERSON, the embattled Rank Group chairman, admitted yesterday that it had been a tough year, but rejected suggestions that investors' best hope of recouping their money was a break-up.

Unveiling a big drop in 1998 profits, he conceded that the second half of the year — culminating in Andrew Teare's removal as chief executive with an £870,000 payoff — had been "bloody awful". However, he claimed that the £2 billion spent over the past three years would "impact positively in 1999".

Last September, in the wake of Mr Teare's resignation, the company received an informal approach from John Garrett, a former director, over a possible £900 million bid for the leisure division, including Odeon cinemas and Tom Cobleigh pubs. But Sir Denys said there had been no further contact from Mr Garrett, adding: "We are not about to do any fire sales, because that would be absolutely crazy."

Douglas Yates, acting chief executive until Mike Smith arrives in April, also dismissed persistent speculation that credit notes taken out at the time of the sale of its stake in Xerox were a "poison pill", preventing a break-up of Rank. He added that the credit notes, covering deferred payments of £440 million of the £940 million sale price, may be switched to the insurance market. "We believe it could be cheaper for the insurance market to cover this than the banking market," he said.

Yesterday Rank reported a cut in profits before tax and exceptionals from £303 million to £255 million from turnover up 2.2 per cent to £2.06 billion. Despite a drop in earnings per share to 23p (26.5p), the group maintained its final dividend at 12.75p, making 18.5p (18p).

After a reasonable first half of the year, the second half was hit by a combination of weakening consumer confidence, the disruptive effects of refurbishments and, most embarrassingly, an inability by its Deluxe video duplication arm to cope with huge demand for copies of *Titanic*.

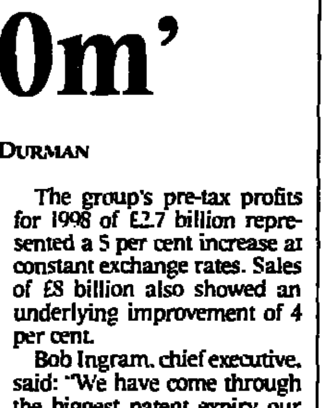
Including exceptionals, the pre-tax loss was £51 million, the biggest hit being a £141 million write-off against the value of its US resorts arm, which was put up for sale last year. Mr Yates said that the business, now worth less than £60 million, would probably be sold "in three or four chunks".

He added that the recent sale of 14 nightclubs to the likes of Luminar and Springwood had reaped £20 million so far.

Although all divisions, including holidays, leisure and Hard Rock Café, were badly hit in the second half, Sir Denys said there were "signs of a more positive trading environment" in some businesses". Butlins, benefiting from a £139 million makeover, has seen a 17 per cent rise in forward bookings in value terms.

Tempus, page 30

Glaxo share options 'could cost £900m'



By Paul Durman

GLAXO WELLCOME would be forced to take a charge of at least £900 million in its accounts if the pharmaceuticals group were to follow Boots in recognising the true cost of share options granted to employees.

Boots this week announced plans to acknowledge that the new shares issued to fulfil the exercise of options dilutes the profits available for other shareholders. Buying shares to cover outstanding options could reduce this year's profits by £63 million, it estimated.

With 90 million options in issue with an average price of about £10, and with its shares trading above £20, Glaxo Wellcome would face a much bigger charge. However, John Coombe, finance director, said: "We have no plans to go out into the marketplace and buy those in."

Analysts were strongly impressed with Glaxo Wellcome's results announced yesterday, which showed it shrugging off the loss of £800 million of sales from Zantac and Zovirax, the big-selling drugs that lost their patent protection in 1997.

The group's pre-tax profits for 1998 of £2.7 billion represented a 5 per cent increase at constant exchange rates. Sales of £8 billion also showed an underlying improvement of 4 per cent.

Bob Ingram, chief executive, said: "We have come through the biggest patent expiry our industry has ever seen. This is a tremendous achievement by anyone's standards."

Zantac, the ulcer treatment that once dominated the group, now represents only 9 per cent of sales. Excluding Zovirax and Zantac, sales grew by 17 per cent, and by 23 per cent in the important American market.

Sir Richard Sykes, the chairman, said Glaxo Wellcome would grow sales and earnings by 10 per cent or more this year at constant exchange rates. The continuing strong growth of products such as Flixotide and Serevent for asthma, Combivir for HIV and Wellbutrin for depression will be supported by new medicines to treat HIV, hepatitis B and influenza.

Sir Richard said modern drug development technology will hugely reduce the attrition rate of potential new drugs over the next ten years. He said between 50 per cent and 60 per cent of drugs taken into human trials will reach the market — against only about 10 per cent today.

After three years of holding back spending on research and development, Glaxo Wellcome's spend this year will rise from £1.16 billion to about £1.3 billion.

Sir Richard said he would not prevent goodwill problems from making acquisitions that were important to develop its business. The enormous goodwill generated by drug takeovers could produce very substantial charges against profits — an issue that was believed to restrict Glaxo Wellcome's ability to mount hostile takeovers of Zeneca or other companies.

A final dividend of 21p increases the total by 3 per cent to 36p a share.

☐ Shareholders in Zeneca yesterday gave overwhelming backing to its £45 billion merger with Astra of Sweden. More than 539 million shares were voted in favour of the deal, with fewer than six million voting against. In a month's time Astra's shareholders will vote on the merger, which is opposed by a group representing small Swedish shareholders.

Investor, the Swedish investment group that owns more than 10 per cent of Astra, has given strong backing to the deal, which also needs to be approved by US and European competition authorities.

Tempus, page 30

US ruling lifts Skye share price

By Paul Durman

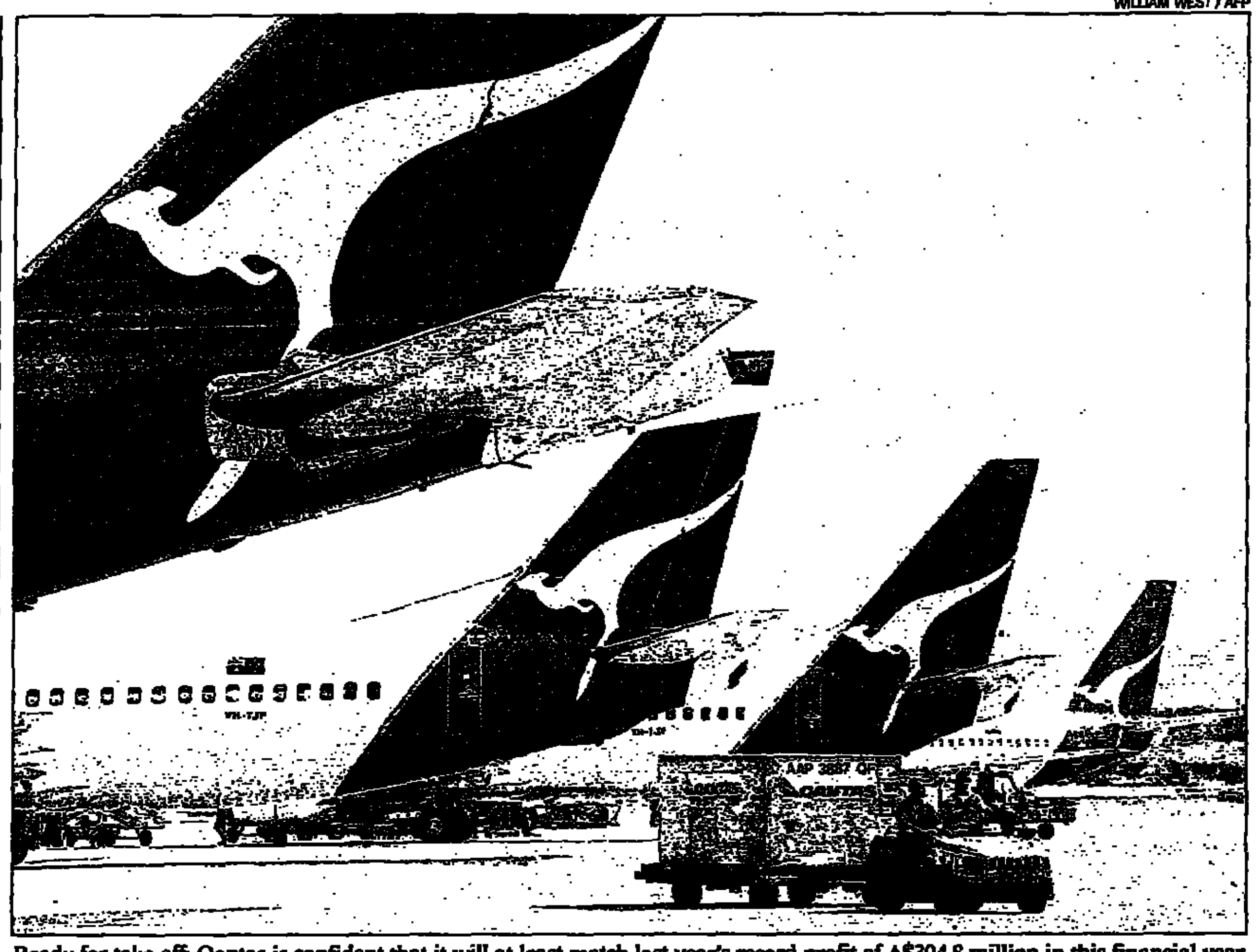
SMITHKLINE BEECHAM is remaining tight-lipped about its plans for Paxil CR, a new form of its big-selling anti-depressant that is expected to take SkyePharma through to profitability.

SkyePharma helped develop Paxil CR and should earn a 3 per cent royalty on sales when the drug is launched in the US. Paxil, known as Seroxat in the UK, had American sales last year of £700 million, making it SB's biggest-selling drug.

News yesterday that the US Food and Drug Administration has approved Paxil CR initially lifted SkyePharma's shares from 82½p to 92p. Salomon Smith Barney suggested SkyePharma will make an £8.4 million profit next year, and will earn £13 million a year from Paxil CR by 2002.

SkyePharma's shares later slipped back to 85p, as SB declined to clarify its launch plans for the anti-depressant. However, another possibility is that SB intends to use Paxil CR as part of its strategy to defend Paxil's patent protection, which expires in 2006. The patents on Paxil CR extend beyond this date.

WILLIAM WEST / AFP



Ready for take off: Qantas is confident that it will at least match last year's record profit of A$304.8 million in this financial year

Qantas defies Asian turmoil

By Paul Armstrong

QANTAS AIRWAYS surprised investors yesterday when it reported a 34 per cent jump in interim net profit in the face of the Asian economic crisis.

The Australian airline, in which British Airways has a 25 per cent stake, said net earnings totalled A$223 million (£87 million) for the half year to December 31, reflecting its move to replace many Asian routes with flights to the US and the UK.

Analysts said that they would upgrade their full-year profit forecasts on the back of the result. The stock closed 21 cents higher at A$3.92.

They had been concerned that Qantas would feel at least some of the pain dealt to other airlines in the region by Asia's malaise.

Gary Pemberton, chairman, said: "In the face of difficult market conditions, we were able to absorb significant capital expenditure, maintain balance sheet gearing and increase profits."

He said Qantas was confident it would at least match last year's record profit of A$304.8 million this financial year.

Analysts did not rule out the prospect of Asia still damaging Qantas's earnings, but they are confident that the worst had passed. Qantas is a member of the oneworld alliance, whose other members include BA, American Airlines and Iberia.

RJB threatens to close mines

By Christine Buckley

RJB MINING has threatened to close mines with the loss of more than 800 jobs if the company is hit by strikes, according to the union poised to launch the first walkout.

Richard Budge, RJB's chief executive, said he would close three mines in Yorkshire if industrial action stops production, said Neil Greatrex, general secretary of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. Talks between RJB and the generator are continuing but some in the industry are pessimistic that the coal producer will get sufficient orders.

RJB said that Mr Budge's comments had been distorted. "The conversation was about the likely outcome of a shortfall of about three million tonnes and it was said that that equated to the output of two to three pits."

Pit closures would be highly controversial so soon after last year's change of government policy to make the energy market fairer for coal. They would be seen as a blunt instrument used by RJB to cut costs.

The clash between RJB and the unions came as the UDM postponed a strike planned for next Monday. It is allowing RJB more time to meet pay demands.

Limelight bid talks break off

By Sarah Cunningham, retail correspondent

LIMELIGHT, the fitted kitchens and bathrooms retailer, and Anglian Group, the double glazing and home products company which made a bid approach last month, have broken off talks after failing to agree a price.

Limelight said yesterday that "the third party" had not offered a price that fairly reflects the prospects of the company and, having been turned down, has withdrawn. Anglian is believed to have offered below £60 million for Limelight, which is capitalised at £39 million.

Limelight, which was founded by the late Stephen Boler, has had a checkered past.

It was floated at 175p a share two-and-a-half years ago and at one stage touched 200p. But the company ran into trading and financial problems which saw the shares crash in early 1997, falling to a low of 25½p. They closed yesterday at 39p, down 4½p after a recent rally tied in with the bid approach.

Following a series of changes in management, it is expected to show a pre-tax profit of about £8 million for 1998, having made a £12.3 million loss a year earlier.

Narrow victory for Tay board

By Robert Lea

CONFUSION surrounded the attempted boardroom coup at Tay Homes last night after the official result of an extraordinary meeting of shareholders declared that the plans of dissident investors had been defeated by the narrowest margins.

Shortly after the declaration, which showed a victory for the incumbent directors by 50.8 per cent to 49.2 per cent, the rebel shareholders' camp questioned the figures released to the Stock Exchange.

Richard Tice, who forced the meeting in an attempt to sack Tay's executive directors and replace them with a management team led by himself, said that by his calculations his camp should have received 400,000 more votes. Mr Tice's motion was defeated by 12 million votes to 11.6 million.

If the result stands as communicated to the Stock Exchange — and a spokesman for Tay last night said there was "absolutely no question" that the numbers, which were verified by PricewaterhouseCoopers, are correct — then it is believed Mr Tice will launch a takeover bid.

Tice, the joint chief executive of rival housebuilder Sunley, which has an 11 per cent stake in Tay, had received backing from Phillips & Drew, the company's largest single investor. The fund manager holds 17 per cent of Tay.

Mr Tice said: "We are monitoring the situation very closely." Privately he was encouraged by the fact that when the votes of the board are stripped out, his motion received the support of 70 per cent of Tay investors.

Of the official result, John Swanson, Tay's chief executive, said: "A win's a win."

Lafontaine fails to change ECB's stance on rates

By Saeed Shah and Sigrid Aufterbeck

THE European Central Bank left its key interest rate unchanged at 3 per cent yesterday despite intense political pressure from Germany and France to cut rates.

Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister and outspoken advocate of lower rates, attended the meeting to press his case but failed to persuade the central bankers at the biweekly meeting of the ECB governing council.

Herr Lafontaine has repeatedly said that European jobs and growth are under threat from deflation, but Wim Duisenberg, the President of ECB, has maintained that prices, jobs and growth are steady.

Explaining its decision, the ECB said: "The governing council confirmed its earlier assessment that the prospects for price stability remain favourable and that no strong pressures can be identified."

Economists said that a potentially inflationary wage settlement in Germany would have weighed against lower rates.

Employers and IG Metall, the metalworkers union, agreed a 3.6 per cent wage increase for workers in the state of Baden-Württemberg before the ECB voted on interest rates.

The rest of IG Metall's 3.4 million membership are expected to receive the same deal. The union had originally demanded 6.5 per cent, while employers had offered 2.3 per cent.

The agreement is regarded as a benchmark for wage negotiations across Germany. Analysts fear that 3.6 per cent is too high for Germany's sluggish economy, which is forecast to grow at some 2 per cent this year, down from 2.8 per cent last year.



Duisenberg: steady growth

BAe denies reports of freeze on Saudi arms deal

By Adam Jones

BRITISH AEROSPACE vehemently denied reports yesterday that the ongoing Al Yamamah arms deal with Saudi Arabia has been frozen.

The reports had caused BAe shares to slump from the opening price of 430p to 385p, forcing BAe, which is the prime contractor on the project, to issue a statement. It said: "The company confirms that no such moves to freeze the programme have taken place and that the Al Yamamah programme continues as planned."

The Ministry of Defence also denied the reports of a freeze. The reassurances helped BAe shares to rally, closing at 412p.

Last autumn, BAe shares were hit by anxieties about an outstanding cash payment from Saudi Arabia. Under the Al Yamamah deal, BAe is mainly paid in oil, with balancing cash payments if necessary to compensate for fluctuations in the oil price, which has been struggling at historic lows in recent months. It is understood that several hundred million pounds were duly paid to BAe in December.

Saudi Arabia was recently forced to postpone a planned £1.1 billion purchase of South African artillery equipment by two years.

Joe Modise, the South African Defence Minister, said the delay was a result of Saudi financial problems.

The Al Yamamah deal, which was originally negotiated by the Thatcher Government in the 1980s, has seen BAe sell Tornado fighters and Hawk jets to the Saudis, with additional maintenance, training and spare parts contracts.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Nomura share sales trigger investigation

SECURITIES industry inspectors are mounting an investigation at Nomura, Japan's biggest securities house. The inspection by the country's Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission comes after a big sell-off of shares in Tokyo after fears of the extent of the losses in its US businesses. Nomura is also, reportedly, the subject of a second inspection by Japan's Financial Supervisory Agency. Although this is routine, the agency is said to be evaluating Nomura's assets after the overseas losses.

The financial health of Nomura, which made losses in the first half of the current financial year of more than £1 billion, has been the subject of speculation after its losses in the US stemming from its real-estate finance and mortgage-backed bonds business. Its overseas units were also hit hard on Russian bond losses. Capital Company of America, a wholly owned subsidiary in the US, said in October that it expected to post an after-tax loss of $275 million (£170 million) in the half year to September 30. Nomura, which is best known in the UK for its deal-doing principal finance team headed by Guy Hands, declined to comment on the investigations.

Cookson sells division

COOKSON, the materials conglomerate, has sold its fibres business to a venture capital group for £93 million. The disposal forms part of Cookson's drive to reduce the number of businesses it operates in order to focus on electronics, ceramics and engineering. Cookson Fibers makes solution-dyed fibres for the automotive and upholstery industries and fine denier fibres for textiles and clothing. Last year Cookson Fibers made profits of £10.3 million and had net assets at the year end of £89 million. Cookson will take a £3 million write-off.

Waddington warning

WADDINGTON became the latest packaging group to warn investors on profits, sending its shares down 12½p to 186½p. It said profits would be 10 per cent below City expectations and gave warning that tough trading conditions would continue "well into the next financial year". It estimates that profits for the year to April 3 will be about £31 million compared with market forecasts of £35 million. Last year the company reported profits of £39.6 million. Earlier this week Low & Bonar, a rival packaging company, issued a similar warning.

Debonair in black

DEBONAIR, the Easdaq-quoted airline based in Luton, hailed a turning point for the company yesterday as it reported third-quarter profits. With load factors up to 62 per cent from 45 per cent the previous year, the cut-price operator made operating profits in the three months to December 31 of £500,000 compared with quarterly losses of £1.2 million in 1997. Turnover was up by £1 million to £8.6 million in the quarter. Losses for the year so far are running 17 per cent lower at £4.3 million.

Ibstock quits Portugal

IBSTOCK, the building products group that is in the process of being taken over by CRH, the Irish company, in a £326 million deal, is liquidating its interests in Portugal. The company said that after previous non-core disposals in the country it was now also disposing of its holding in Caima Ceramica e Servicos, giving Ibstock £21.6 million in cash after costs. Philip Mengel, the chief executive, said that the company was now concentrated on the British and American markets.

CPL scents profit fall

SHARES of CPL Aromas fell 19p to 64p yesterday after the producer and distributor of flavours, fragrances and aroma ingredients gave warning that profits would fall significantly below current market expectations in the year to March 31. The company blamed depressed retail demand in the UK and the adverse impact of unfavourable exchange rates on CPL's export business. Trading in Eastern Europe and the Far East was also weak. In the past financial year the company earned pre-tax profits of £1.9 million on sales of £35 million.

Honda in US boost

HONDA, Japan's third-largest carmaker, said net income rose nearly 16 per cent to a record Y75.6 billion (£390 million) in the third quarter as strong US sales and a weak yen more than offset falling domestic and Asian sales. Third-quarter sales in North America, which generates most of Honda's profits, rose 7.7 per cent. But Honda gave warning that the yen's sudden sharp appreciation against the dollar late last year was likely to weigh on revenues for the full year to March 31, reducing sales by more than Y100 billion.

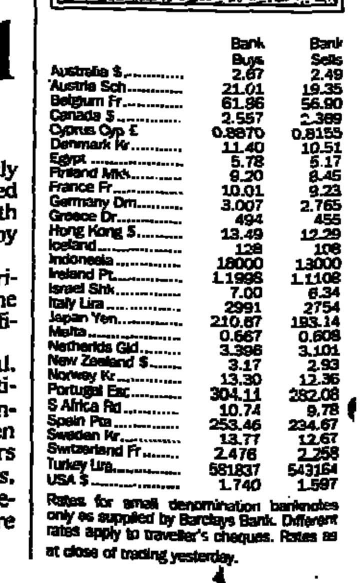
Wolseley in five deals

WOLSELEY, the building products company, has acquired five distribution businesses in America, Britain and the Republic of Ireland for £38 million. These businesses are expected to contribute £92 million to turnover in a full year. In the current financial year Wolseley has acquired businesses valued at a total of £216 million and which will contribute sales of £439 million annually. The largest acquisition announced yesterday was Heatmerchants, a plumbing products distributor based in Athlone in the Irish Republic, with sales of £28.4 million.

Carrefour advances

CARREFOUR, the French supermarket group, said it was on target to lift operating profits by 20 per cent this year even if currency devaluations in Brazil and Argentina continued to have an adverse impact on its Latin American operations. Yesterday Carrefour reported a 7.9 per cent rise in 1998 net profits to €616 million (£420 million) before exceptional charges. Sales rose 6.2 per cent to €27.4 billion. Carrefour booked an exceptional profit of €31 million from the sale of the company's Depot US, Depot France and Carpetland outlets.

EXCHANGE RATES



	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.67	2.49
Austria Sch	21.01	19.35
Belgium Fr	61.86	56.90
Canada $	2.557	2.389
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8870	0.8155
Denmark Kr	11.40	10.51
Egypt	5.78	5.17
Finland Mkk	9.20	8.45
France Fr	10.01	9.23
Germany Dm	3.007	2.765
Greece Dr	494	455
Hong Kong $	13.49	12.29
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	18000	13000
Ireland Pt	1.1998	1.1108
Israel Shk	7.00	6.34
Italy Lira	2991	2754
Japan Yen	210.87	193.14
Malta	0.667	0.608
Netherlds Gld	3.396	3.101
New Zealand $	3.17	2.93
Norway Kr	13.30	12.36
Portugal Esc	304.11	282.08
S Africa Rd	10.74	9.78
Spain Pta	253.46	234.67
Sweden Kr	13.77	12.67
Switzerland Fr	2.476	2.258
Turkey Lira	581837	543164
USA $	1.740	1.597

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Brown cashes in on pensions



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Scandal begets scandal. It seems that when Gordon Brown stands up next month and dispenses a little largesse, he will be handing out the guilt money squeezed out of those who mis-sold personal pensions. Not only is the Chancellor guilty of giving us a somewhat enhanced view of the strength of the economy, as he broadcasts a surplus that has been secretly swollen with one-off compensation payments of which, apparently, the Treasury has not kept count. He is also missing an opportunity to begin to tackle the terrifying problem of how public sector pensions will eventually be paid.

The unfunded nature of most of the public sector schemes has long been a source of fear to those who dare to think long term about such matters. With retired nurses and teachers likely to be drawing their pensions for many more years than did Mr Chipps, the burden on the public finances could be unbearable. This is the sort of issue no Government races to tackle: better to keep on running up the bills for the next administration to pay.

But if Mr Brown had been really brave, he could have taken the money that is now being handed over by the private sector pensions industry and used it as seed corn on which to start growing a more sensible solution to the problem of public sector pensions. In the United States, Bill Clinton is husbanding some of the surplus he has found in the social-security budget and segregating it as the start for a new fund. It would be one example of White House behaviour which might have transferred well to Downing Street. Yet this is wishful thinking. The Government's radical ideas on pensions appear to have vanished to the back benches with Frank Field and now the whole debate seems to have been mired in the turf wars between the Treasury and the Department of Social Security.

While the tussle goes on, the private sector seems content to sit meekly back and await instructions. The companies have been so battered by the opprobrium heaped upon them for mis-selling that they do not have the nerve to step forward now and offer constructive advice. They are appalled at the way the compensation they are paying to reinstate public sector pensioners is being used to swell the public purse and privately mutter about the iniquity of a windfall tax by any other name. Yet they would not dream of voicing their concerns publicly for fear of the terrible repercussions that might result. A handbagging by Helen Liddell left its mark, as did the plentiful threats that those finance houses that misbehaved might find themselves blacklisted from selling new products dreamed up by the Government.

So there is silence on the subject. But when Mr Brown generously hands some extra cash to the health service, spare a thought for how we are going to fund all those nurses' pensions.

Who mocks the meat it feeds on?

Guy Hands is away from his office at the moment. He can still afford a decent holiday, despite the refusal of the institutions to pay what he deemed a reasonable price for William Hill. Even now, Nomura stands to have turned a profit of about £80 million on the deal in just 15 months. The Hands pay packet may not reach its record £40 million again but it will still make most City salaries look like small change. Could it be that the merest hint of jealousy influenced a few fund managers in their determination to batter down the William Hill price?

The green-eyed monster would be a less worrying explanation than the one emanating from the Hill camp yesterday. That put the blame firmly on the institutions' lack of enthusiasm for anything other than the largest companies, preferably in telecoms, pharmaceuticals or financial services. Some of these stocks have already been driven to levels unsustainable on logical grounds but the wondrous thing about the investors' commitment to the big cap stocks is that it becomes self justifying. They keep buying the stocks and the prices keep rising.

At some stage the market must break out of this pattern, but in the meantime smaller companies are not merely consigned to the second league but a different game completely.

With a market capitalisation of just under £500 million, William Hill was apparently dismissed as the sort of tiddler that major investors would only consider buying at bargain prices. They will happily pay 70 times earnings for Vodafone but a chain of betting shops has been beaten down to a p/e of just 9.4. It may not be the most glamorous business, and its growth potential may be limited but inveterate punters assure Hill of a steady stream of profits.

The extraordinary polarisation of the market now being created by unimaginative investors is fuelling the desire of many companies to go private. Hundreds of businesses are currently examining the prospects for baling out of the stock market and all the expensive hassle that a quotation brings with it. Venture capitalists will help them. The clever ones will then put together several companies in the same sector and create a business of sufficient scale to appeal to institutional investors. Then they will float it — and turn the sort of profit to make the herd of fund managers truly jealous.

UK's finest need to insure a future

Britain's once mighty, world-leading insurance industry is looking ever more puny, viewed from outside. Global insurers are being created and our finest left behind.

Aegon of The Netherlands, hardly a household name even though it owns Scottish Equitable, has just agreed to gobble up Transamerica, which shares its founder with Bank of America and surely seemed proof even against another earthquake to most residents of San Francisco.

The deal turns Aegon into the world's third-biggest quoted insurer, after America's AIG and Germany's Allianz. It also becomes second only to American Prudential in the US life market.

Not that this is an equal deal. Transamerica is valued at £6 billion, mostly in Aegon shares, the size of a middling UK group. Aegon was already valued at £34 billion. Among insurers with a UK element, only Swiss-led Allied Zurich operates in this league.

Our own mighty Pru, the equivalent quoted life assurance leader, comes in at just half Aegon's value pre-Transamerica. Legal & General and CGU rate £12 billion. Any of them would make a fine meal for Aegon or its rivals in a couple of years time.

To make life trickier, continental insurers are protected against takeover. Aegon, in the usual Dutch way, has a linked foundation, which will restore its holding to a controlling 40 per cent. It makes British rivals look puny.

Kiss and make up

WITH Valentine's Day now just a misty memory the would-be investment trust lovers — 3i and Electra — have fallen out. Like two spotty teenagers brimful of the terrors of first-time infatuation, neither is prepared to talk to the other unless the other makes the first move. Look carefully in the corner of the sixth form common room and you will see each in wounded, self-righteous debate with friends. Yet they studiously avoid direct contact. For shareholders' sakes, the adolescent intriguing should stop.

Aegon joins superleague with $9.7bn US purchase

By Marianne Curphey

AEGON took a leap into the superleague of world insurers yesterday by announcing that it was paying $9.7 billion (£5.95 billion) for Transamerica, the financial services company based in San Francisco (see Commentary, this page).

The move will propel Aegon to the number three slot in life insurance in the world by market value and make it the third largest US life insurer by assets and premiums written.

After the acquisition, which is expected to be completed by the summer, Aegon will generate two thirds of its profit in the US, up from 51 per cent. In terms of market capitalisation the combined company will be dwarfed only by AIG of the US and Allianz of Germany.

Aegon, based in The Hague and owner of Scottish Equitable in the UK, derives about 86 per cent of its business from life insurance and already has substantial business interests in the UK, Hungary and Spain. Although the deal marks the Dutch insurer's largest purchase to date, Aegon said it was still looking for acquisitions.

Kees Storm, chairman of Aegon, said only the high prices of European insurance companies were preventing the company from further expansion.

Aegon's offer is 70 per cent shares and 30 per cent cash and represents a 34.5 per cent premium to Transamerica's closing price yesterday. The latter has $58.5 billion in assets.

Aegon will assume $1.1 billion in Transamerica debt. The Dutch insurer said the deal would lift its earnings per share growth in 1999, helping to achieve growth of about 12 to 15 per cent.

The purchase follows Aegon's purchase of Providian, the US group valued at $3.5 billion, just over two years ago.

Avesta woe hits British Steel price

By Carl Mortished

BRITISH STEEL yesterday suffered a blow as Avesta Sheffield, its Stockholm-listed subsidiary disclosed further evidence of weakness in the stainless steel market.

Shares in British Steel fell 3 per cent, to 119¼p, as Avesta recorded a third-quarter loss of SwKr521 million (£40 million), giving a nine-month loss of SwKr1 billion, and spoke of price pressures caused by surplus capacity in Europe after a fall in exports to Asia.

Avesta said that stainless steel prices continued to fall for most of the third quarter, with cold-rolled coil down 13 per cent compared with 1997's third-quarter prices. Avesta has also been hit by US anti-dumping duties, adding a 13.5 per cent tariff to imports from the UK from December.

However, Avesta said base prices stabilised at the turn of the year, with US price rises expected to take effect in March and Asian prices strengthening after gains in Japanese and Korean currencies.

Pace order in US lifts share price

By Saeed Shah

THE first US order for Pace Micro Technology's digital set-top boxes, announced yesterday, boosted the shares.

The price jumped 21½p to 140½p, to a two-year high, as a result of the deal, with BellSouth in Atlanta. Pace will supply the telecoms company with 100,000 multipoint microwave distribution (MMDS) boxes, for an undisclosed sum.

Pace had a troubled launch on to the market in 1996 as digital television failed to take off as quickly as expected. The shares launch price was 172p, but they sunk as low as 25½p.

Pace last month reported dramatically improved results, as digital TV started to become established in the UK and elsewhere in the world.

Pre-tax profit was £8.3 million for the six months to November 28, compared with a loss of £12.3 million in the previous year. MMDS works like satellite TV, but is broadcast from ground-based transmitter masts.

Tempus, page 30

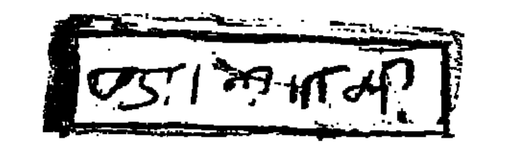
Visser saves Brown & Jackson £1m

THE decision by Johan Visser, chief executive of Brown & Jackson, to put a stop to the discount retailer's plans to shut a fifth of its Poundstretcher stores saved £1.1 million, the company's interim results yesterday revealed (Fraser Nelson writes).

Mr Visser, who was parachuted in when Pepkor of South Africa took control of the company two years ago, yesterday explained: "When I arrived, 63 Poundstretcher stores were earmarked for closure. Some of the disposals had already gone through, but I was able to save 34."

The mixture of saving on the closure costs plus the return to the sales growth across the 259-strong Poundstretcher chain, saw the company writing back £1.1 million from a previous provision.

In the six months to December 31 pre-tax profits at the group which includes 151 Your More Stores and 91 What Everyone Wants outlets came in at £22 million (£13.2 million). Brown & Jackson shares added 7½p to a five-year high of 104½p.



STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Contract fears send BAe into nosedive

CLAIMS that the most lucrative contract for **British Aerospace** had been scuppered sent the shares into a nosedive, touching 385p before ending 18p down at 412p, making it the worst performing stock among the top 100.

Diplomatic sources were credited with a report that the lucrative Al Yamamah oil-for-arms contract with Saudi Arabia had been shelved because of the country's economic problems.

The story was met by firm denials from both the Ministry of Defence and BAe. But by then the damage had already been done to British Aerospace with **GEC** also down 11½p to 515½p.

Al Yamamah is reckoned to be worth £2 billion a year in revenue. But the collapse in the crude price means Saudi Arabia will be forced to top up the oil payments with hard cash. It was estimated at the time of BAe's interim results that a £500 million shortfall had already occurred.

Last night dealers had begun pointing the finger of suspicion for the story at market bears anxious to call the BAe share price lower ahead of next week's final results.

Share prices generally endured another helter-skelter performance with an early mark-up generated by another healthy set of trading results from blue chip companies.

At one stage, the FTSE 100 index had replaced a rise of 44.9 with a deficit of 71.3. But an opening rally on Wall Street enabled the index to reduce the fall to just 3.5 at 6,074.9 by the close.

Total turnover reached 998 million shares. The London Stock Exchange enjoyed its best trading month to date in January, with £366 billion of stock changing hands. Turnover in euroland stocks, transacted in euros, accounted for 42 per cent of the total value of business undertaken by the LSE.

The City gave the thumbs-up to final results from **Glaxo Wellcome**, up 21p at £20.14, despite the drugs group reporting a downturn in profits. It follows the expiry of patents for its two bestselling drugs, Zovirax and Zantac. But the company, whose chairman is Sir Richard Sykes and chief executive Robert Ingram, was upbeat about the future and said there was scope for further growth in some areas.

The speculative buying that has been behind the recent surge in demand for **Legal & General** shows signs of running out of steam with the price unmoved at 863½p. HSBC Securities, the broker, cut its rating from "buy" to "add". Dealers say the life insurance sector has been galvanised by talk of a merger between **Barclays Bank**, 18p better at £16.86, and the **Prudential Corporation**, up another 20½p at 917½p.

Credit Lyonnais Securities, the broker, rates **United Utilities**, 1½p harder at 820½p, as a "buy" and has set a target price of 998p. Bruce Bromley at CLS likes the long-term outlook for the water utility and says the prospect of a break-up is "very real".

Kingfisher sported a rise of 25p at 734p on the back of some useful trading news from Carrefour, the French retailer, and a "buy" recommendation from Warburg Dillon Read, the broker.

Sir Alistair Grant, chairman of **Scottish & Newcastle**, bought 20,000 shares at 685p, taking his holding to 50,000 shares. The S&N share price has dropped from a peak of 945p last year to close last night 7p up at 683½p.

Shield Diagnostics responded positively to this week's bullish comments from Nomura, the Japanese securities house, with a rise of 50p to 525p. Nomura puts a price of £27 a share on Shield if it can find a merger partner.

Hawtin firmed 1p to 24¼p as Richard Morgan, a non-executive director, bought 100,000 shares at 23¾p. Share buying by one director was also recorded in AIM-listed **Future Integrated Telephony**, ½p firmer at 35½p. David Ellison, a non-executive director, has bought 75,000 shares at 35p, stretching his holding to 85,000, or less than 1 per cent of the company.

McKechnie dipped 4p to 348p after Merrill Lynch, the broker, reduced its recommendation for the shares from "accumulate" to "neutral".

A downbeat trading statement left **Allen** nursing a fall of 34p at 292½p.

The cry of "fore!" reverberated around the Square Mile as shares of **Golf Club Holdings** stood out with a jump of 5p, or almost 25 per cent, to 25½p. The company says it knows of no reason for the rise.

St Modwen advanced 4½p to 73½p helped by a "buy" recommendation from Warburg Dillon Read, the broker.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Opening losses among US treasury bonds left London closing below its best levels of the day after an early mark-up.

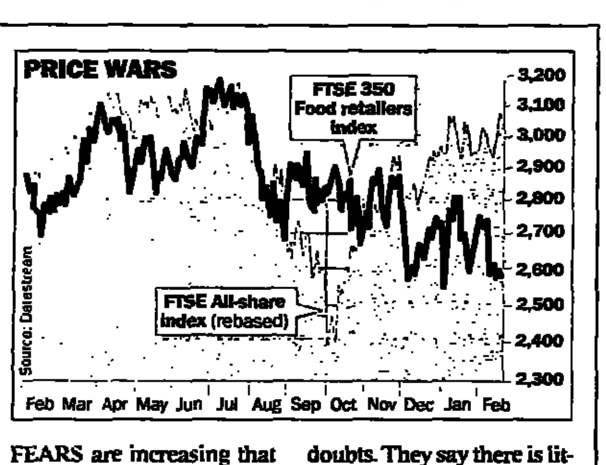
Short and longer-dated issues fared well but medium issues came under selling pressure.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt ended 7p down at £116.98 as a total of 29,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 33p to £148.85, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 finished 5p firmer at £106.99.

□ **NEW YORK:** Shares were generally higher in morning trade. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 47.98 at 9,243.45.



Sir Richard Sykes, flanked by Robert Ingram, left, and John Coombe, finance director, saw Glaxo Wellcome rise



FEARS are increasing that the supermarket price wars are hotting up again. The latest AGB survey shows some of the bigger players losing market share such as Safeway, unchanged at 281¼p, Tesco, 3½p lighter at 174p, J Sainsbury, 7¼p off at 377¾p, and Somerfield 1p easier at 369½p.

They are reckoned to have lost ground to the likes of Asda, 1p lower at 153½p, and William Morrison Supermarkets, 2½p firmer at 326½p.

But brokers have their doubts. They say there is little evidence of the price war escalating. "The situation has not materially altered," said one broker.

Paul Smiddy, food retail analyst at Credit Lyonnias, the broker, is also sceptical about the latest survey and places more importance in the findings of the Office of Fair Trading inquiry into the industry due out within the next month.

"The sector looks bombed out and reasonable value at these levels," he says.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	9243.45 (+47.98)
S&P Composite	1230.14 (+6.4)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	14145.79 (-11.88)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	Closed

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	512.19 (-1.98)

Sydney:

AO	2882.5 (+0.3)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4845.08 (+34.99)

Singapore:

Straits	1335.01 (-26.14)

Brussels:

BEL20	3382.28 (+7.20)

Paris:

CAC-40	4039.41 (+53.92)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1348.30 (-8.70)

London:

FT 30	3698.8 (-1.7)
FTSE 100	6074.9 (-3.5)
FTSE 250	5153.9 (-20.6)
FTSE 350	2875.4 (-3.1)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2749.40 (+1.76)
FTSE All-Share	2779.17 (-3.13)
FTSE Non Financials	2808.84 (-7.50)
FTSE Fixed Interest	157.78 (+0.34)
FTSE Govt Secs	114.69 (+0.07)
Bargains	80488
SEAQ Volume	998.2m
US$	1.6335 (-0.0023)
Euro	0.6869 (+0.0001)
£:SDR	1.1853
Exchange Index	101.3 (Same)
Bank on England official close (4pm)	
RPI	163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM VCT	100		...
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	88		...
Acorn Income Fund	101½		...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	98		...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	120		...
Close Bros Dev VCT	100		...
Enhanced Zero Trust	102½		...
Gander Properties	7¼		...
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	106¾	+	¾
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	98		...
NBA Quantum	109½		...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ambient Media n/p (49)	¾	...
Peptide Therapeutics n/p (78)	21	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Pittards	28½	+ 6	+ 26.6
Stoddard Intl	4¾	+ 1	+ 26.6
Pace Micro	141½	+ 22½	+ 18.9
Majestic Wine	347½	+ 40	+ 13.0
Fortune	2¼	+ ¼	+ 12.5
Acal	410	+ 42½	+ 11.5
Rank Grp	226¼	+ 22¼	+ 10.9
Shield Diag	525	+ 50	+ 10.5
IWP Intl	117½	+ 10	+ 9.3
Babcock	85	+ 7	+ 8.9
Atlantic Telecom	151	+ 11	+ 7.8
LPA	69	+ 5	+ 7.8
Centrica	121¾	+ 8¾	+ 7.7
Brown & Jacksn	104½	+ 7½	+ 7.7
Hazlewood Fds	126½	+ 9	+ 7.6
Amstrad	49½	+ 3½	+ 7.6
Boosey Hwks	360	+ 25	+ 7.4
Time Products	103½	+ 7	+ 7.2

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
CPL Aromas	64½	- 18½	- 22.2
Bula Resources	1	- ¼	- 20.0
Danka Bs Sys	72½	- 15½	- 17.6
Quadrant Grp	32½	- 5	- 13.3
Inner Workings	24½	- 3	- 10.9
Allen	292½	- 34	- 10.4
Limelight	39	- 4½	- 10.3
Regina	4½	- ½	- 10.0
Bandt	23	- 2½	- 9.8
Tie Rack	29	- 3	- 9.3
Cons Murchison	19¾	- 2	- 9.1
Coats Viyella	35½	- 3½	- 8.9
Lionheart	5¼	- ½	- 8.6
Computerland UK	156	- 14	- 8.2
Polymasc Pharms	47½	- 4	- 7.7
Austin Reed	97	- 7	- 6.7
Wickes	287½	- 20	- 6.5
Waddington	186½	- 12½	- 6.2

TEMPUS

Crosby still a hash & young

JAMES CROSBY, Halifax's chief executive of six weeks, has a lot to prove. It is early days yet, but the youthful leader of this titan of UK financial services has shown little sign of being able answer the enormous "what next?" question which has been hanging over the Halifax since it was floated in June 1997.

It may be that, with the kind of cash being generated Mr Crosby does not need to do anything to satisfy shareholders except keep the dividends flowing. Plans were laid yesterday to shell out another £1.5 billion to Halifax's 3.6 million shareholders. Once distributed the total dividends paid, in less than two years, will be 107p a share — £375 for the average smallholder with 350 shares. Notwithstanding that, the shares cost most private shareholders nowt, that is a return of 13.5 per cent in less than two years — using the current share price for the capital element in this calculation. That is enough to embarrass the interest on a standard Halifax savings account.

But while handing cash back to shareholders gives great income, it underlines the imagination deficit at the top of the organisation. Halifax cannot afford such generous dividends if it does not take the business forward. In some areas it has gone backwards. It improved on its dismal first-half new mortgage business performance in the second half, but it is still lending less than its share of the existing mortgage market. The Lex Service deal to lend on cars is progress too, but in no way represents the "Big Idea".

Nevertheless, hold on to the shares. The dividend income is juicy. Moreover, if the strategy vacuum persists, the chance of a share price enhancing takeover bid increases.

Glaxo Wellcome

HOWEVER you look at them, Glaxo Wellcome's results are simply stunning. It lost £600 million of Zantac sales; it suffered price cuts in Japan; and it endured economic turmoil in many emerging markets. But despite all of this it still increased underlying sales by 4 per cent, raised pre-tax profits by 5 per cent and lifted earnings by 6 per cent.

Holding back research and development spending has clearly helped. But what is impressive is the depth of its fast-growing medicine cabinet. Glaxo Wellcome has exchanged its former dependence on Zantac, its ulcer blockbuster, for a galaxy of stars. Sales of Flixotide for asthma are up 63 per cent to £498 million. Wellbutrin for depression has more than doubled to £307 million, and there is strong growth in Combivir for HIV and Zyban, which helps people to stop smoking.

Excluding Zantac and Zovirax, the other patent expiry victim, the group's sales grew 17 per cent, and by a startling 23 per cent in the huge American market.

Better still, this growth is backed up by a strong programme of launches with new drugs for asthma, HIV, hepatatis B, flu, irritable bowel syndrome and others. Little wonder, then, the company is so loved. For such a big firm, its near-term growth prospects are remarkable. The concern remains that so much of this is already in the price. At £20.14, the shares trade on 36 times forecasts of this year's earnings, a multiple that only falls to 31 in 2000. That is too high to buy.

ALL DRUGGED UP
GlaxoWellcome share price
FTSE All-share index (rebased)
Source: Datastream
2400p 2200 2000 1800 1600 1400 1200
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Rank

RELIEF that Rank's numbers were no worse than expected fed the 11 per cent rise in the company's share price yesterday. But the figures were still very poor.

The road back should be smoothed by the amounts of capital expended improving the company's trading business. More than £2 billion has already been spent and another £700 million is slated. But investors cannot expect that Rank problems will be solved simply because it has thrown money at them.

If Rank is to flourish it needs to exploit the video reproduction businesses, and avoid mistakes.

If brands such as Mecca Bingo and Butlins are to succeed, Rank also needs to replicate the pop music industry's ability to recycle and re-invent fashion. If the shares are to sustain and progress on yesterday's gains, the company also needs decent economic conditions to feed consumer confidence.

It is too early to recommend that Rank shares be bought. Its history is too turbulent for that.

Investors require hard evidence of profit success before throwing good money after what has been a bad investment for so long.

But holders can begin to hope that the worst is behind Rank, and give the company one last chance to perform.

Pace Micro

INVESTORS who lost faith in Pace Micro Technology after its disastrous flotation three years ago may now be beginning to regret a decision to sell out.

Pace Micro, which makes set-top television signal decoders, is under new management. Led by Malcolm Miller it swung back into profit during the first half of this financial year, and has now confidently moved into the North American market. Quietly, the shares are creeping back to float price levels.

Pace was floored in 1997 because the launch of digital television, for which the decoders are required, was delayed. Now with digital television taking off investors are beginning to realise the potential again.

Yesterday's deal with Bell South increases Pace's attractions. The US market will eventually account for about a third of the global digital television market.

Investors must remember that Pace is a relatively small company competing with giants such as Sony and Philips. The market for digital television is also still in its infancy, and anything could happen before old-fashioned analogue frequencies are switched off. At 141½p, Pace's shares trade on a racy, but not excessive, forward p/e ratio of 32.

Nonetheless, accumulate.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	920-918	May	992-991
May	907-905	Jul	1007-1005
Jul	918-917	Sep	1023-1020
Sep	934-932	Dec	1045 SLR
Dec	952-950		
Mar	975-972		Volume: 4659

ROBUSTA COFFEE

Mar	1708-1705	Nov	1600 BID
May	1632-1630	Jan	1605 SLR
Jul	1625-1627	Mar	unq
Sep	1613 BID		Volume: 5035

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	214.6-13.0
Spot: unq		Mar	216.7-16.0
May	223.8-23.6	May	219.7-15.0
Aug	218.3-18.0	Aug	223.3-16.5
Oct	211.7-11.5		Volume: 1831

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 17

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	53.21	89.10	94.09
(+/-)	+0.68	-2.51	-0.22
Eng/Wales	53.21	89.12	93.36
(+/-)	+0.68	-2.82	-0.13
%	-3.0	+7.0	+31.0
Scotland	unq	89.06	98.13
(+/-)		-1.78	-0.80
%		-14.0	+33.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	9.90	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	10.20	n/c
Brent 15 day (May)	10.40	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	11.65	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (May)	11.80	n/c

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	106 (n/c)	110 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	97 (-1)	99 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	56 (n/c)	57 (n/c)
Naphtha	91 (n/c)	95 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	93.00-93.25	Jun	97.00-97.25
Apr	93.25-93.50	Jul	99.50-100.25
May	94.75-95.00		Vol: 19739

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	10.15-10.17	Jul	10.71-10.73
May	10.35-10.36	Aug	n/a
Jun	10.53-10.54		Vol: 14578

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	72.00	Mar	75.00
May	73.75	May	76.25
Jul	75.70	Sep	74.25
Sep	74.50	Nov	76.50
Nov	76.10	Jan	78.50
Volume: 170		Volume: 0	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	224.5
Apr	275.0	284.5
May	unq	284.5
		Volume: 125

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Mar 45.75-46.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 99	925	897	930
Apr 99	970	965	970
Jul 99	unq	—	860
Oct 99	965	960	968
Vol: 135 lots			Open interest: 2440

Index 831 +6

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mths	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1379.5-1380.0	1407.0-1407.5	1503325
Lead ($/tonne)	528.00-529.00	533.00-534.00	257900
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1043.0-1044.0	1056.5-1057.0	812100
Tin ($/tonne)	5345.0-5355.0	5245.0-5250.0	22985
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1173.0-1174.0	1197.5-1198.0	1425875
Nickel ($/tonne)	4570.0-4575.0	4650.0-4655.0	78900

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	117.27	117.40	116.82	116.98	44904	93836
	Jun 99	118.17	118.39	117.95	118.00	2581	4908
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.37	0	63
	Jun 99				108.16	0	0
Italian Govt Bond	Mar 99	113.58	113.82	113.28	113.35	7948	45146
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 99	130.90	131.23	130.76			4537
	Jun 99	129.69	130.00	129.61			1529
3-Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.670	94.690	94.650	94.680	19553	187587
	Jun 99	94.930	94.940	94.890	94.930	33478	198106
	Sep 99	95.020	95.040	94.980	95.025	21423	184764
3-Mth Euribor	Mar 99	96.985	96.995	96.970	96.980	36910	144770
	Jun 99	97.085	97.100	97.075	97.085	28886	119780
	Sep 99	97.115	97.130	97.105	97.115	19416	72628
	Dec 99	96.870	96.870	96.845	96.850	6067	73566
	Mar 00	97.025	97.040	97.005	97.015	7645	51241
3-Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.700	98.720	98.680	98.690	6810	83347
	Jun 99	98.600	98.620	98.580	98.590	10427	67113
3-Mth Euro Libor	Mar 99	96.990	96.990	96.975	96.980	1284	160882
	Jun 99	97.080	97.095	97.060	97.085	2344	125742
	Sep 99	97.120	97.125	97.115	97.115	275	122027
	Dec 99	96.860	96.860	96.855	96.850	120	99272
	Mar 00	97.030	97.035	97.015	97.015	915	93058
FTSE 100	Mar 99	6064.0	6104.0	6000.0	6060.0	31194	168373
	Jun 99	6100.0	6100.0	6096.0	6096.0	2505	18943

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance House 6½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 5½ Week fixed: 5⅛

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅛, 3 mth 5⅛; Sell: 2 mth 5⅛; 3 mth 4⅞

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	
Sterling Money Rates:	n/a	-		--	--
Interbank:	n/a	-	-	--	-
Overnight: open 5½, close 7					
Local Authority Deps:	5⅛	n/a	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛
Dollar CDs:	4.88	n/a	4.92	4.97	5.16
Building Society CDs:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	4⅞-4⅞	5-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5⅛	5-4
Sterling:	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5
Euro:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3ds-3pr
Yen:	1⅛-1	1⅛-1	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1-par
Canada:	5-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $285.20-285.60 **Close:** $285.50-286.00 **High:** $285.60-286.10
Low: $285.20-285.60 **AM:** $285.65 **PM:** $285.70

Krugerrand: $291.00-293.00 (£178.00-180.00)

Platinum: $370.00 (£226.50) **Silver:** $5.505 (£3.365) **Palladium:** $351.00 (£214.90)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for February 18	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.809-10.827	10.183-10.827	¼-⅛pr	½-⅛pr
Euro	1.4546-1.4566	1.4550-1.4562	0.12-0.14ds	0.37-0.41ds
Montreal	2.4297-2.4344	2.4297-2.4321	0.13-0.05pr	0.26-0.12pr
New York	1.6332-1.6342	1.6332-1.6337	0.09-0.07pr	0.173-0.142pr
Oslo	12.709-12.736	12.724-12.736	1½-2⅛ds	½-⅛ds
Stockholm	12.988-13.017	12.997-13.017	⅛-⅛pr	¾-⅛pr
Tokyo	195.40-195.79	195.64-195.79	⅛-⅛pr	2½-2⅛pr
Zurich	2.3211-2.3277	2.3254-2.3277	⅛-⅛pr	2½-2⅛pr

Source: Exdel Premium = pr Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5728-1.5740
Canada	1.4886-1.4896
Denmark	6.6170-6.6200
Euro	1.1235-1.1243
Hong Kong	7.7476-7.7486
Japan	119.74-119.84
Malaysia	3.7999-3.8001
Norway	7.7770-7.7870
Singapore	1.7002-1.7012
Sweden	7.9520-7.9620
Switzerland	1.4233-1.4243

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6320-1.6335
Australia dollar	2.5656-2.5712
Bahrain dinar	0.6100-0.6242
Brazil real*	3.0690-3.1040
Cyprus pound	0.8345-0.8533
Euro	1.4526-1.4549
Finland markka	8.5708-8.7099
Greece drachma	462.50-473.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.6522-12.6607
India rupee	68.69-70.29
Indonesia rupiah	14069.0-14669.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4910-0.5024
Malaysia ringgit	6.2052-6.2094
New Zealand dollar	3.0274-3.0349
Pakistan rupee	80.10 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8900-6.0274
Singapore dollar	2.7776-2.7810
S Africa rand (com)	9.9810-10.1998
U A E dirham	5.9425-6.0811

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	2,464	Land Secs	2,062
ASDA Gp	10,811	Legal & Gn	2,918
Abbey Ntl	1,676	Lloyds TSB	12,507
Allnce & Leic	2,944	LucasVarity	1,313
Allied Dom	2,134	Marks Spr	6,522
Allied Zrch	1,929	Nat Grid	6,575
Amvescap	1,117	Nat Power	6,405
AB Foods	983	NatWst Bk	4,580
Bk of Scot	2,071	Norwich Un	3,769
BAA	3,314	Orange	1,962
Barclays	6,264	P & O	3,576
Bass	1,454	Pearson	2,976
BG	7,034	PowerGen	2,603
Billiton	13,815	Prudential	3,010
BOC	1,649	Railtrack	2,426
Boots	2,667	Reckitt Col	1,807
BP Amoco	14,027	Reed Intl	5,185
BAe	18,115	Rentokil	7,208
BA	11,210	Reuters	3,375
Brit Am Tob	3,366	Rio Tinto	2,911
Brit Energy	2,207	Rolls Royce	5,461
BSkyB	2,256	Ryl & Sun	5,906
BT	13,638	Ryl Bk Scot	7,291
BTR Siebe	20,248	Safeway	4,398
CGU	6,348	Sainsbury	5,086
COLT Telecom	847	Schroders	284
Cable Wire	4,246	Scot & New	1,415
Cadbury	3,500	Scot Sthn Engy	1,130
Carlton Cms	2,306	Scot Power	12,617
Centrica	17,476	Securicor	769
Compass Gp	1,755	Sevn Trent	747
Daily Mail A	614	Shell Trans	29,758
Diageo	7,880	Smiths Ind	1,849
Dixons Grp	2,139	SmKl Bch	13,881
EMI	2,718	Stagecoach	1,933
Gallaher	4,145	Std Chartd	2,533
Gen Elec	9,128	Sun Life	1,013
GKN	3,052	TeleWest	4,140
Glaxo Well	10,790	Tesco	15,569
Granada	6,318	Thames W	478
GUS	1,259	Tomkins	5,962
GRE	5,908	Unilever	6,384
Hanson	680	Utd News	2,530
ICI	20,644	Utd Utilities	978
Imperial Tob	1,343	Vodafone	9,981
HSBC	3,658	WPP	2,195
Halifax	10,034	Whitbread	3,315
Hays	1,983	Williams	874
Kingfisher	4,715	Woolwich	10,169
Ladbroke	7,867	Zeneca	3,998

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

WALL STREET

Feb 18 midday / Feb 17 close

[illegible]

Would you be willing to buy shares in the National Health Service?

Every Secretary of State and every Government for 50 years has been faced with the question: "What should be done with the NHS?" The first difficulty in addressing the question is finding the starting point: the condition of the service today.

Of the following two scenarios, which one rings most true?

■ **Scenario 1: Growing crisis.** The NHS is in crisis again. A depressing daily news diet of bed shortages, patients on trolleys, unsafe levels of intensive care beds, shortage of nurses, overworked junior doctors, relations being asked to undertake basic nursing duties, crises of morale, criminal assaults on staff, almost 2 per cent of the population on a waiting list, GPs squabbling with the Secretary of State, accusations of hidden rationing and so on. A service near to breakdown.

■ **Scenario 2: Success story.** Despite the occasional short-term operational difficulties that are inevitable in an organisation of such a size, the success of the NHS continues. The best elements of recent structural reforms have been consolidated and the worst elements jettisoned and replaced. More patients are being treated than ever before. The service is to receive a further significant increase in funding. Sensible levels of management are now in place in a service that has historically been under-managed. Technology and drug therapies are advancing rapidly. Many are now treated on a day-case basis. Waiting lists, inevitable because of finite resources, are now back under control. The NHS is the envy of the world.

Both of these views are largely true. Indeed, taken together, they probably reflect how the public sees the NHS — a modern day marvel, but rather threadbare around the edges.

The NHS is full of such paradoxes. This would not much matter, except that understanding and agreeing about the current state of the service is an essential starting point in considering how to shape its future.



Close examination of strategic, operational and managerial issues may identify ways of improving the service, but the solutions may be uncomfortable

In the last of our five-part series, DAVID WILLIAMS casts an investor's eye over the 'business'

For example, a subscriber to what we might call the "sunny side up" view, may reasonably conclude that "it ain't bust, so don't fix it". A bit of tinkering may be called for here and there, of course, but basically the NHS is in pretty good shape.

The more pessimistic among us, however, might be of the opinion that radical action is required to prevent the NHS from breaking down altogether.

So, in terms of thinking through what might be done to improve the NHS, we have a pretty fundamental difficulty — it is not obvious where we are now. Superimposed onto this difficulty are three fresh pressures on healthcare resources, which are powerful and gaining momentum. They are:

■ The ageing population. People are living longer and as they age they are consuming more and more healthcare resources.

■ Continual advances in technology and drugs mean that more can be done for more people, but (usually) at a greater cost. A good example of this is Viagra.

■ There are increased public expectations about what can be expected from healthcare systems and the quality of life to which people are entitled.

There are very many experts better qualified than I to offer views about how the NHS can meet these challenges. There are advocates for the better use of technology, the creation of better partnerships, improved collaboration between various parts of the system, more effective use of human resources and so on. Others argue that these challenges cannot be met solely by tactical improvements and require a significant injection of resources. To the outsider (and probably to most insiders), the strength of these arguments is virtually impossible to assess. The NHS is just so big, complex and diverse. Not only is it difficult to agree where we are now, but judging the effectiveness of proposed solutions is a forbidding task.

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE NHS

One way of breaking free of such impenetrable issues is to consider a different question. Ignore "What should be done about the NHS" and start, instead, with "Would you buy shares in it?".

Assuming we are rational investors, what questions would we ask before investing in the enterprise? Let us agree that, because we are looking at public provision and because we do not have the space here, we will leave to one side the obvious starting point of whether the business is making money. Instead, we will move straight to some of the strategic, operational and managerial issues that we might generally consider.

Is this an organisation that:

☐ Has a clear mission and purpose, understood and accepted by everyone in it?
☐ Has clear objectives?
☐ Has leadership?
☐ Has robust demand for its products and services?
☐ Lacks competitors?
☐ Has a well-defined product or service range that is of standard quality and tested effectiveness?
☐ Has a manageable number of stakeholders?
☐ Has long-term planning horizons?
☐ Is investing in the future?
☐ Provides a consistent level of service across all its service points?
☐ Is your personal supplier of choice?
☐ Has a sensible management and organisation structure that avoids the development of independent power bases, anti-corporate attitudes and professional fiefdoms?
☐ Is well managed and has a reasonable level of managerial freedom?
☐ Lives within its means and has control over its costs?
☐ Has good information systems?
☐ Has a well-trained and motivated workforce?
☐ Uses its resources efficiently and effectively?
☐ Treats its patients like valued customers?
☐ Is reasonably free from political interference?
☐ Attracts only a reasonable amount of media attention?

Ask yourself these questions. What do you think, would you buy shares? Although we will all produce a different array of answers to these questions, perhaps depending on our personal experience of the NHS, I suspect that for most of us the negatives will outweigh the affirmatives by a considerable margin. We might safely draw two general business conclusions from this analysis.

Although it has undeniable strengths, the NHS has some important strategic weaknesses. In particular, it lacks a clear purpose. It has a fantastic capacity to do things and undergoes agonies in seeking to ensure that it does things right. But is it doing the right things? It is unclear whether the current role of the NHS is to meet all of everyone's healthcare needs, or a more limited subset. What should its role be in the future? Successive Secretaries of State have sent out conflicting signals about this. Would the NHS benefit from an adult, sensible debate about what it will and will not (or can and cannot) do in the future so that there is complete clarity about its purpose and boundaries?

Secondly, the NHS has a number of operational and managerial weaknesses. Perhaps the most important is the lack of managerial freedom. For example, NHS trusts were originally heralded as "self-governing". In practice, they are anything but. They have very limited powers (for example, concerning the raising of capital) and are subject to a whole range of controls by a whole range of bodies.

Some of this control is, of course, essential. But imagine if, instead of the current arrangements, trusts were given a ten-year service contract (with appropriate break points for underperformance) that set out what they must deliver and to what standards, and what they will be paid for it. Suppose trusts were then left to get on and manage their own affairs, held accountable only to the terms of the contract. Would any of the "no" answers change to "yes" over the decade?

Casting an investor's eye over the NHS may identify some ways of improving the service. But although the questions are simple, the answers may be radical or even uncomfortable.

David Williams is a director of Ernst & Young's Risk Consulting group.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Pernicious dumping

From Dr Denis MacShane, MP for Rotherham (Labour)

Sir, Carl Mortished's pertinent analysis of the world's steel industry (February 17) should not be allowed to obscure one crucial fact. Dumping is just as pernicious and unfair a trade practice as protectionism.

Despite the crisis in Asia, there has been very little effort to reduce steel output in the region. According to the latest figures China and Taiwan have increased production of steel. The UK, despite the long economic boom, saw crude steel production drop by 6.6 per cent in 1997 in contrast to Korea where output went down by 5.9 per cent and in India which saw a drop of just 2.9 per cent over the same period.

In other words, despite a decline in the Asian regional economy since 1997, Asian steel producers have not adjusted and have switched to soft European markets.

There is evidence in certain sectors, notably stainless steel wire, that dumping — selling at below production costs — is taking place. Dumping sends out all the wrong economic signals and distorts trade. If clear, prima facie evidence of dumping exists in steel then such market distortions need to be put right by countervailing duties. The opposite of protectionism cannot be dumping. Both need to be combated to promote free and fair trade.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MACSHANE,
Chair, Steel Group of MPs,
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA.

Orange loses its appeal

From Mrs Margaret Crick

Sir, In your Corporate Profile of Orange (February 8) you report that the company aims to have 10,000 mobile phone masts by 2001. This is alarming news for those who love the countryside.

Despite strong objections from our parish council, Orange has erected a 30-metre mast on a hill close to our village, which is in a beautiful and unspoilt rural part of Oxfordshire. The mast can be seen from a wide area, and intrudes into many lovely views across the valley.

Orange's Millennium Landmark Initiative might be trying to make masts less ugly, but if they can't be disguised in areas of high landscape value, should they be there at all?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET CRICK,
2 Blue Row, Swerford,
Oxfordshire, OX7 4BA.

Unwanted designs on Gucci

Fraser Nelson reports on the latest battle being waged for the Italian fashion house

For all the elegance of its silk dresses and leather handbags, Gucci's boardroom in Milan has been the venue of some of the most brutal scenes in the history of the fashion industry.

Domenico De Sole, its chief executive, has seen them all. He joined in 1984 to adjudicate between the warring Gucci family, and when they all lost out to Investcorp, the investment bank, he was made head of the company.

"I say jokingly that we had World War I and World War II at Gucci," he says. "I am a veteran of both. World War I was inter-family feuding, and World War II was Maurizio Gucci and Investcorp."

Now, he is preparing for World War III. This time, the enemy is Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, the scourge of Diageo, and once again the independence of the Italian fashion house is at stake.

For the past five weeks, M Arnault's company — which owns a stable of famous labels including Kenzo, Givenchy and Christian Dior — has been snapping up shares of Gucci, building a stake from 5.3 per cent to 34.5 per cent. Although this is billed as a "strategic investment", Signor De Sole believes his French counterpart is planning a coup of sorts.

Now, he has decided to go hostile. Yesterday he announced that Gucci was creating 20 million new shares, to be owned by an employee trust, which would counter any power LVMH had on Gucci's board.

He says the move was made with regret, but in self-defence. "When he first started buying the shares, I was open-minded. Then when he started buying more and more shares, I became somewhat suspicious, and now we see what his plans are."

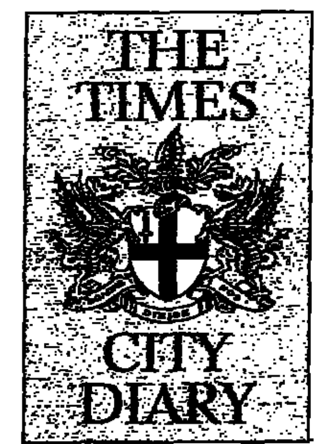
M Arnault's demands are simple. He wants an LVMH-approved director to sit on Gucci board meetings, and has used his 34.5 per cent shareholding to force Signor De Sole to call a shareholder meeting to make this possible. It may seem a reasonable request, but Signor De Sole suspects M Arnault wants to use the director as a trojan horse — allowing LVMH to take control of Gucci without any takeover premium.

M Arnault believes this is a hysterical reaction. He has made long and gushing speeches about his admiration for Signor De Sole and Tom Ford, its senior designer. Without them, he says, he would not be interested in Gucci — and his investment is a mark of respect, not malice.

Both men say the fracas could have all worked out differently. M Arnault says he was willing to agree to all Gucci's demands, but only if he saw the directors' contracts. He suspects they contain "poison pill" clauses that could allow Mr Ford and Signor De Sole to abandon Gucci once LVMH has control.

Signor De Sole says his contract is none of LVMH's business — and says M Arnault must now either bid for the company or leave them in peace.

Last night, LVMH said it would take the whole issue to court, to finally decide what Gucci is required to do under Dutch law, as the company is listed on the Amsterdam stock exchange. With the main showdown not due until April, Signor De Sole's World War III is only just beginning.



Turner prize

AN INVITATION arrives to hear Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, giving his views on "Reflecting on 1998: Lessons from the Global Financial Turmoil". Sounds like fun, except for one thing. I have a pretty good idea where I shall be on March 9, and I suspect Turner, too, will be equally office-bound. It's Budget day.

The CBI confirms that the date has, indeed, been put back. Budget day has been set for weeks. Both of us are baffled why the invitations should only just have gone out for an event that has already been cancelled, and I get no response from the issuer. So much for the business acumen, then, of the Centre for International Business Studies at South Bank University.

One hopes they rearrange the fixture before Turner leaves the CBI at the end of the year to write a book about the "Third Way". His early retirement has gone largely unnoticed, and it breaks what has, at times, been an uneasy relationship with the current President, Sir Clive Thompson.

This means both the CBI and the Institute of Directors are on the look-out for new chief executives this year. Plus approaching a dozen large public companies. Perhaps they should apply to South Bank's Centre for International Business Studies.



"Hey, fantastic. We've got a windfall from the Halifax"

ANOTHER invitation, for the IoD's annual convention. "Power, People & Performance in the 21st Century" is the theme, late April the date. And never mind the next century, by April at least two of the speakers may not be in power or in any position to perform.

Michael Grade's First Leisure is in bid/merger/disposal talks after a long period of stock market underperformance. And Sir Paul Condon, of the Met Police, has troubles of his own, I believe.

Damned lies

THANKS to those readers who have attempted to explain the graph I reproduced yesterday from Electra Investment Trust, which showed assets underperforming the stock market even as chairman Michael Stoddart told shareholders the opposite.

The general view is that you can prove anything from statistics, especially if you choose the right starting point for comparisons. For a more technical view I am indebted to Professor Andrew Doswell of the Business Information Management unit at Glasgow Caledonian University.

It is "a combination of economy with statistical truth and semantics" he tells me.

Boyes own

SO WHERE was Roger Boyes, the Halifax finance director, yesterday? He missed both the press conference and the analysts' meeting. According to James Crosby, the new chief executive, he was ill.

When my colleague spoke to him, Boyes sounded fine. He had hurt his leg a while back but was still brought down to London for the event and spent the day skipping between several different offices. So: fit enough to make the journey, but not to mount the podium? Or was it because Boyes has a reputation for being spectacularly bearish about the bank's prospects?

THE forthcoming telephone number changes — again? What, again? — are tricky enough. They certainly seem to have defeated BT, which has put a briefing note in with recent phone bills explaining what the current codes are and how they will change by spring next year.

Alas, the new numbers are quite wrong, and the note has had to be reprinted. A reader spotted this and rang BT for an explanation. It was a "computer error", he was told. Actually, no; it was a mistake.

Net profit

THE official Manchester United Hotel that opened this week has some unexpected backing. Most of the £5 million needed was put up by private investors, one of them Howard Wilkinson, one-time manager of the England football team.

The link is through his wife, Sam, and Caroline Roberts, wife of the man behind the hotel, entrepreneur Peter Roberts. The two met when Sam, an interior designer, did some work for Caroline. Wilkinson tells me: "If she is involved somehow, nothing can prevent it from being a success."

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Wilkinson: backed the Manchester United Hotel

See-saw ride for shares

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

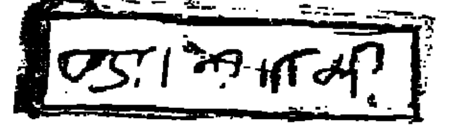
SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7866

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	144.82	153.96	- 0.12	
-do- NAV to Jun 19	140.39	140.39		
UK Equity Safeguard	114.54	123.50	- 0.47	2.02
-do- NAV to Mar 19	110.99	110.99		
US Eq Safeguard	96.67	102.73	- 0.11	
Cash	952.29	952.62		6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	432.61	460.22	- 2.52	1.80
UK Small Cos	86.84	92.01	0.11	0.52
FTSE 250 Index	104.08	111.51	- 0.37	1.89
Geared UK Index	23.844	25.171	- 0.22	2.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.25	91.72	- 0.04	6.66
Monthly Inc	44.26	47.32	- 0.14	7.29
International Funds				
American Gen	367.16	397.98	- 2.34	0.17
American Strat	169.04	180.35	- 2.49	
3G US Index	28.725	30.362	- 0.12	4.50
European Gen	429.17	454.15	- 0.32	
European Strat	209.32	223.97	- 0.61	
Japan Gen	102.59	109.23	- 1.12	
Asia Pacific	60.47	64.40	- 0.17	1.09
Pacific Strat	85.75	90.57	0.45	
Greater China	139.06	143.69	- 1.57	
Latin America	56.39	60.31	- 0.29	
Intl Growth	192.06	204.97	- 1.45	0.11
Balanced Exempt	182.71	189.33		2.16
Global Strategy	46.59	49.70	- 0.29	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust				
Balanced Acc	83.20	88.51	- 0.02	1.72
Balanced Inc	74.75	79.52	- 0.03	1.72
Brit Excell	131.90	140.30		
Brit Fxdmts Acc	170.00	180.90	- 0.20	1.93
Brit Fxdmts Inc	105.42	112.10	- 0.10	1.92
Europe	558.96	594.60	- 4.30	0.30
General Acc	974.70	1037.00	- 2.00	2.42
General Inc	780.10	829.90	- 1.00	2.40

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 522 100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Can Gen Dist	317.50	338.50	- 0.30	0.99
-do- Income Dist	175.70	186.70	- 0.20	2.65
-do- Accum	605.00	641.30	- 0.60	2.65
Gilt & Fxd Int	47.99	50.45	- 0.29	3.91
Growth Units	295.00	412.70	+ 1.10	1.14
Bond	204.70	215.50	- 0.50	4.50
Intl Growth	265.90	282.50	- 3.10	0.11
North American	410.70	435.80	- 5.50	
Far East	165.20	176.70	- 1.10	0.98
UK Smaller Cos	274.30	294.40	0.10	1.15
European	136.90	145.40	- 0.80	0.14
Japanese Growth	28.75	30.45	0.24	
High Income	306.30	327.40	- 0.20	2.89

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American & Gen	363.70	384.60	- 4.60	
European Inc	152.90	162.30	- 0.40	
Smaller Cos	112.50	119.70	- 0.20	2.07
Growth	756.70	804.00	- 1.50	1.13
Income & Growth	591.30	629.10	- 0.30	4.38
-do- Accum	979.90	1042.60	- 0.40	4.33
Japan & Gen	49.74	52.57	- 0.56	
Multimgr Gwth	1741.00	1814.00		0.84
-do- Accum	2217.00	2310.00	- 1.00	0.84
Special Sits	174.10	185.30	- 0.40	1.12
High Yield	1904.00	2004.00	- 2.00	3.74

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	126.00	132.83		2.01
American Portfolio	201.27	213.22		0.23
European Portfolio	219.76	233.61		0.23
High Income	58.81	63.19	- 0.19	5.77
Japanese Portfolio	46.62	49.37	- 0.25	
Pacific Portfolio	102.23	109.93	- 0.11	1.78
UK Equity	126.01	134.31	- 0.11	1.66
UK Equity & Bd	72.62	77.57	+ 0.11	5.31
UK Smr Cos	51.21	54.78	- 0.05	2.20

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Far Eastern	293.60	312.30	- 1.80	
UK Special Sits	73.10	77.96	+ 0.09	0.26
Fd of Inv Tsts	60.10	64.09	- 0.22	
High Income #	69.20	73.80	- 0.23	4.07
Financial Opps	78.91	84.16	+ 0.14	0.72
Growth & Income #	58.98	60.77	- 0.16	2.14
Global Opps	56.31	60.06	- 0.01	0.72

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
0171 558 0880

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bridge Income #	418.70	445.43	- 2.82	3.46
Sel Growth	146.98	156.36	..	0.51
Inc & Growth #	103.08	109.66		2.96

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos	68.90	72.90	+ 0.10	2.02
-do- Accum	150.90	159.70	+ 0.20	2.02
Sth East Asia	219.80	232.40	- 4.60	2.10
-do- Accum	304.80	322.30	- 6.30	2.10
UK Equity #	82.30	87.00	- 0.50	3.30
-do- Accum #	243.20	257.20	- 1.30	3.30
UK Growth	1597.90	1689.80	- 0.80	1.46
-do- Accum	1832.00	1937.40	- 0.80	1.46

MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Growth	166.77	177.41	- 0.37	0.25

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos	117.73	125.24	- 0.09	1.56
Eva Spec Sit Inc	57.38	61.04	- 0.09	2.38
Eva Spec Sit Acc	61.88	65.83	- 0.08	2.38
Pentire Growth	57.19	60.84	- 0.19	1.45

LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD
Dealing: 0870 6066408

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Cap	600.40	639.10	+ 1.34	1.32
UK Inc/Gth #	638.20	674.90	+ 1.50	3.19
UK Income #	433.50	459.40	- 0.10	4.29
UK Income Acc #	459.80	487.70	+ 0.10	4.29
UK Sm Cos	334.00	357.20	- 0.20	1.99
Euro Gwth	252.80	267.20	- 0.70	0.25

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	65.59	68.91	- 0.23	2.78
Intl Equity Growth	113.53	120.43	- 0.38	0.38
N Amer Growth	214.88	227.84	- 2.23	0.36
Special Sits Growth	40.34	42.91	- 0.12	1.13
UK Growth	659.91	702.03	- 1.10	1.50
-do- Accum	949.06	1009.63	+ 1.58	1.50

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1540.80	1562.80		2.80
Income #	1290.60	1301.90		3.90

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD



POP
Overdosing on burgers and Elvis
PAGE 36

THE TIMES
ARTS

POP
Lifting the lid on the soul of Blur
PAGE 37



Fifty years at the cutting edge

THEATRE: Nottingham's Playhouse is celebrating half a century of trailblazing. **Daniel Rosenthal** reports

Nottingham's theatregoers should raise a glass to the memory of Alderman Roland Green. At a meeting of the city's Labour-led council in February 1961, the members voted on whether to commit about £300,000 to the construction of a new home for the Playhouse theatre; 33 were in favour and 33 against. As Lord Mayor, Green had the casting vote — and chose culture ahead of budgetary restraint.

Had he sided with the opposition, the Playhouse would surely not have reached its fiftieth anniversary season, which resumes next week with a new production of Beckett's *Endgame*. Nor would Nottingham have become such an important destination in the careers of John Neville, Judi Dench, Ian McKellen, Richard Eyre and dozens of others.

The original Playhouse had opened with Shaw's *Man and Superman* on November 8, 1948, in a converted cinema. In the name of quality, André Van Gyseghem, the Playhouse's first director, took the revolutionary step of mounting a new production every fortnight, rather than every week as in most reps.

The actor-director John Harrison took charge in 1951, handing over to Val May six years later. Frank Dunlop was the director when the new Playhouse was completed in Wellington Circus in 1963. Designed by Peter Moro, it boasted a striking, glass-fronted foyer, a circular, 750-seat auditorium and a stage four times deeper than the Playhouse's first. The opening of the new building and the appointment as director of dashing leading man John Neville ushered in what some consider the Playhouse's golden age.

Extending the Playhouse's impressive commitment to education, Neville started a Saturday morning youth club. He introduced lunchtime poetry readings and Sunday night jazz. Rising stars whom Neville directed included Dench, Alan Howard and "a very good young actor I discovered in Ipswich". Step forward Ian McKellen, then 24.

Neville's most celebrated coup established a precedent echoed by last year's Almeida/Kevin Spacey partnership. While filming Melville's *Billy Budd* in 1962, Neville had become friends with Robert Ryan, rugged star of westerns and war movies. Five years later Ryan took a vast pay cut and packed out the Playhouse as Othello opposite Neville's Iago. "There had never been a Hollywood star in regional theatre before," says Neville.

Only Neville's departure sours the story. In 1967 he asked the Arts Council to raise the Playhouse's annual grant to £57,000, was offered £50,000 and resigned, saying

> ‘We believed Nottingham was the epicentre of British theatre, more important than London’

the sum would only allow him to "mark time". When the board regretfully accepted his resignation, he suddenly withdrew it and the controversy rumbled on for a year.

Stuart Burge's regime between 1968 and 1973 included Michael Hordern in *King Lear*, although perhaps his shrewdest move was his choice of successor. Richard Eyre, then 30, was headhunted from the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh, together with his wife, Sue Birtwistle, whom Burge hired to set up the Roundabout theatre-in-education company (still a major part of the programme).

Eyre made David Hare resident dramatist and, among many memorable productions, directed a new play which his board tried hard to veto, but which Eyre now cites as a landmark: Trevor Griffiths's bruising *Comedians*. He has reservations about the Playhouse building ("an exhilarating piece of architecture, although not a great place to put on plays"), but none about the significance of his six years there: "If I hadn't run Nottingham, I would never have been offered the chance to run the National.

"John Neville, Stuart Burge and I believed Nottingham was the epicentre of British theatre, more important than London. It's very difficult to imagine convincing yourself of that now, because the big companies have swallowed up so many of the resources."

By 1990 there was a chance that the Playhouse's core funding might be withdrawn. However, under the executive director Ruth Mackenzie and the artistic directors Pip Broughton and, later, Martin Duncan, the financial position and the Playhouse's profile were transformed. Mackenzie's "local/global" policy saw in-house productions take three world tours, while successful efforts to expand the core audience and bring in more people from Afro-Caribbean and Asian communities helped the Playhouse to win 1996's Prudential Award for creative innovation.

Leading European directors such as Silviu Purcarete were invited to work with English actors for the first time, and Duncan, who will leave office after directing James Bowlam and Alistair McGowan in *Endgame*, believes this internationalist approach "smashed open" local visions of theatre.

What of the Playhouse in 1999? Duncan's successor will be appointed shortly, while Venu Dhupa, the executive director, says increased attendance has helped to dent a five-figure deficit. Pending lottery approval, a major renovation of the forecourt will begin in the summer, including a large sculpture by the Turner Prize winner Anish Kapoor. Official birthday celebrations are planned for June, when, says Dhupa, the foyer will contain a "large, edible installation" from which visitors can take chunks. Having funded the construction of the Playhouse, Nottingham's ratepayers will be taking a piece of it home.

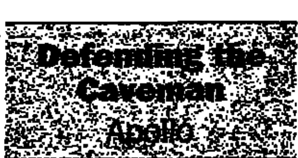
● *Endgame is at the Nottingham Playhouse from February 24 to March 10; Krapp's Last Tape runs from March 11 to 13 (0115-941 9419)*



Touched by Tinseltown: Robert Ryan (left) as Othello and John Neville as Iago in the Nottingham Playhouse's 1967 production of *Othello*

● *Richard Morrison is on holiday*

Counsel for the slobs



Before I start patronising Rob Becker's one-man burble for terminal blokishness, I should make some admissions. As a neo-bachelor in New York in the mid-1980s, I would get depressed by the enormous pile of dishes cluttering the sink, yet my solution was more often to surround them with anti-cockroach powder than to wash them. Then I would sprinkle the same stuff round my unmade bed and enter the Land of Nod. I can imagine my wife dreaming of doing that and subjecting her dream to Jungian analysis; but never, ever would she do it.

What's the relevance of this to the jaunty apologia for trad maleness that Becker himself performed on Broadway but a tousled Aussie called Mark Little is playing in London? More than I would like to believe. The critic in me saw abundant evidence that Little was impersonating the sort of cheerily unsophisticated extrovert whose life consists of his television, his garage, his fishing-rod and his love of what was presumably baseball in America but is cricket here. The man in me ruefully identified with behaviour that ranged from wondering why floors need cleaning to finding it demeaning to ask strangers for directions when I get lost in my car.

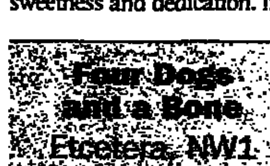
"I stand before you in defence of the caveman," implausibly declares the affably suburban Little, and, aided by a quaint apotheosis involving the ghost of some sage Flintstone, enunciates an answer to those who say there are two genders, "women and assholes". He comes up with the not-too-original notion that men are still hunters, taciturn slobs myopically obsessed with achieving their ends, and women are gatherers, meaning lovers of shopping, chattering and stopping to examine their feelings.

Yet to say that his "defence" sometimes comes across as self-flagellation, or that he trades in stereotypes, or that it is hard to evolve an anthropological theory that embraces (say) Roy Strong, Vinnie Jones and St Simon Stylites, is to take it all a bit solemnly. At times I felt I was travelling with a monomaniac cabbie who could bang on about gender politics from London to Sydney if only the sea were tarmac. But often I succumbed to the show's good nature, as did those around me. We all recognised something of ourselves in its observant humour.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Under the scalpel

RECITAL



PIANIST or conductor, Mikhail Pletnev is the same distinctive musician — highly intelligent, unfailingly focused, uncompromisingly ambitious in his efforts to secure not only a sharply penetrative interpretation but also an immaculate technical finish. If he values friendliness and indulgence less than surgical discipline and control, he is at least as severe in the demands he makes on himself as on the music.

Of the three composers represented in Pletnev's recital in the Bridgewater Hall, only Chopin could claim to be hard done by. The Barcarolle in F sharp minor was calculated rather than spontaneous in phrasing and the Sonata in B flat minor was seriously overdramatised. On the other hand, the concentration, the willpower, the unfailingly direct progress through the four movements of the latter work were extraordinarily impressive. The search for consolation in the D flat major middle section of the *Marche funèbre* was beautifully done.

Grieg's complaint, if any, would have been directed not at the performance of eight of his *Lyric Pieces* but at their presentation. It was not helpful to run them together with no clear distinction between them. Not that this was very important in comparison with Pletnev's insight into harmonies that would have been revolutionary in their time.

As for Schumann, he might have objected to the, theoretically, unacceptable text chosen for the *Etudes Symphoniques*, including pieces he had definitively rejected and excluding one he had definitively left in. Perverse though Pletnev's selection was, however, it worked uncommonly well. Indeed, the two rejected variations were most persuasively coloured and were integrated by the emotional intensity that prevailed throughout.

GERALD LARNER

Success at any price

"I'VE been incested," bleats the dippiest of the four characters in this amusing play. Perhaps it sounds too twee to be linked to unpleasantness but tone is all, and just now for me the word is tinged with the seemingly prim face and voice of Rebecca Saire, playing the would-be film star Brenda, gingering up her past to advance her career.

Try as she may to project sweetness and dedication, it is



only the dedication that rings true. She, as much as Collette (Amy Robbins), her rival actress, as much as Bradley, the film's producer, and Victor, the writer, wants only one thing: success. They are the four dogs of John Patrick Shanley's play, first seen at New York's Manhattan Theatre Club, and only because of its length (70 minutes) playing here at a pub theatre in Camden Town.

Presenting some of the ruses that treachery will employ, the play comes with a quote from Machiavelli: "Among other evils which being unarmed brings you, it causes you to be despised." And thus, the characters whose weapons turn out to possess real cutting edges triumph and those with paper swords end up with their backs to the camera.

Shanley, the Oscar-winning writer of *Moonstruck*, knows the deadly dodges of movie-making. Here is the producer (Paul Trussell) harassed on three sides by money, script and weather, and on his underside by an indelicate discomfort. Here is Alastair Mackenzie's first-time movie-writer, fighting to keep his pure vision; and deadliest of all, and funniest, the actresses scheming to shove themselves into more prominent shots. Assured performances by all four, and direction by Crispin Bonham Carter that introduces clever overlap of scenes.

JEREMY KINGSTON

■ LISTINGS

A Fay Weldon play

ARTS

■ POP GIG

Jonathan Richman live

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Merit Hargie

LONDON

LIFT OFF. Two cool guys, one black, one aching to be black, face problems after leaving school in a new play by Roy Williams. Indhu Rubasingham directs
Ambassadors (0171-565 5000). Previews from tonight. 9pm. Opens Monday, 7pm.

CHAMBER MUSIC: Composer and musician Thomas Adès appears as pianist in this concert featuring two of his own works framed by pieces by Haydn, Bartók and Beethoven. He is joined by a line-up of violin, cello, clarinet and solo voice.
Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.



Composer Thomas Adès plays at the Wigmore

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO: Sir Colin Davis conducts the RAM Sinfonia as the Soloists and Chorus of the London Royal Schools Opera give two semi-staged performances of Mozart's opera buffa.
Royal Academy of Music (0171-935 5461). Tonight and tomorrow, 7pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: *The Four Alice Bakers* is Fay Weldon's intriguing play about cloning in which members of a family are discovered to be uncommonly similar. Bill Alexander directs.
Repertory Theatre (0121-236 4455). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm.

Also in Birmingham: Three pieces by Liszt including the dramatic Dante Sonata kick off a recital by the gifted Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes. These are followed by the rarely performed Chaconne by Nielsen and Schumann's First Piano Sonata.
Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tomorrow, 8pm.

MANCHESTER: The power of the sea is the inspiration for Peter Maxwell Davies's A Reel for Seven Fishermen which receives its UK premiere here by the BBC Philharmonic with the composer conducting. Vassily Sinaisky takes the podium subsequently conducting Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony and Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto with Lars Vogt as soloist.
Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:** Mark Little makes his West End acting debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves.
Apollo (0171-494 5070).

□ **BAREFACED CHIC:** Fascinating Aida play here for a month before setting off on their latest national tour. This time Clarke Peters directs.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800).

□ **TOAST:** Debut play by Richard Bean, set in a bakery disturbed by a new arrival. Richard Wilson directs.
Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

□ **THE NUALAS:** Irish all-girl satirical singing trio bring harmony, hilarity and a sharp look at humanity.
Drill Hall (0171-637 8270).

□ **LE CID:** After ten years Declan Donnellan directs Corneille's 1637 classic again, this time performed in French (with English surtitles). Received an ovation at the Avignon Festival.
Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111).

◪ **COPENHAGEN:** Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's enjoyably intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore directs.
Duchess (0171-494 5075).

□ **THE RIOT:** Co-production with Kneehigh Theatre of Cornwall, presenting Nick Darke's new play, set at the turn of the century where the army is brought in to quell the rivalry between two towns.
Cottesloe (0171-452 3000).

□ **AND THE BROTHER TOO:** Eamon Morrissey returns to the inimitable comic writings of Flann O'Brien, revealing more about "Yer Man" and his curious view of the world.
Tricycle (0171-328 1000).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

AFFLICTION (15): Paul Schrader's bruising portrait of a frustrated small-town cop. Nick Nolte and James Coburn put in powerful performances as father and son, caught in a cycle of male violence, as the town reels from a mysterious accident.

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18): David Kane's comedy charts the mess six Camden Town misfits make of their love lives among the junk stalls. A mechanical plot deflates the haphazard atmosphere. With Kathy Burke, Jennifer Ehle, Douglas Henshall, Dougray Scott, Catherine McCormack and Ian Hart.

HOLY MAN (PG): Eddie Murphy's naive spiritual guru and Jeff Goldblum's sleazy TV executive team up to sell crappy products on a shopping channel. Ghastly stuff. Director Stephen Herek.

FOREIGN LAND (ICA): Gripping underclass thriller about two young exiles, set in Brazil and Lisbon. A triumph of quality over quantity. Directed by the highly collectable Walter Salles.

NEWS FROM THE GOOD LORD (ICA): Over-the-top French comedy from Didier Le Pêcheur. Six weirdos go looking for an Author. Some surreal patches of lunacy. But a lot of this is truly tedious.

CURRENT

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG): Roberto Benigni's romantic Second World War fable stitches a disturbing comedy into the Holocaust. Supremely well acted, but the comic treatment of the material is at best nauseating.

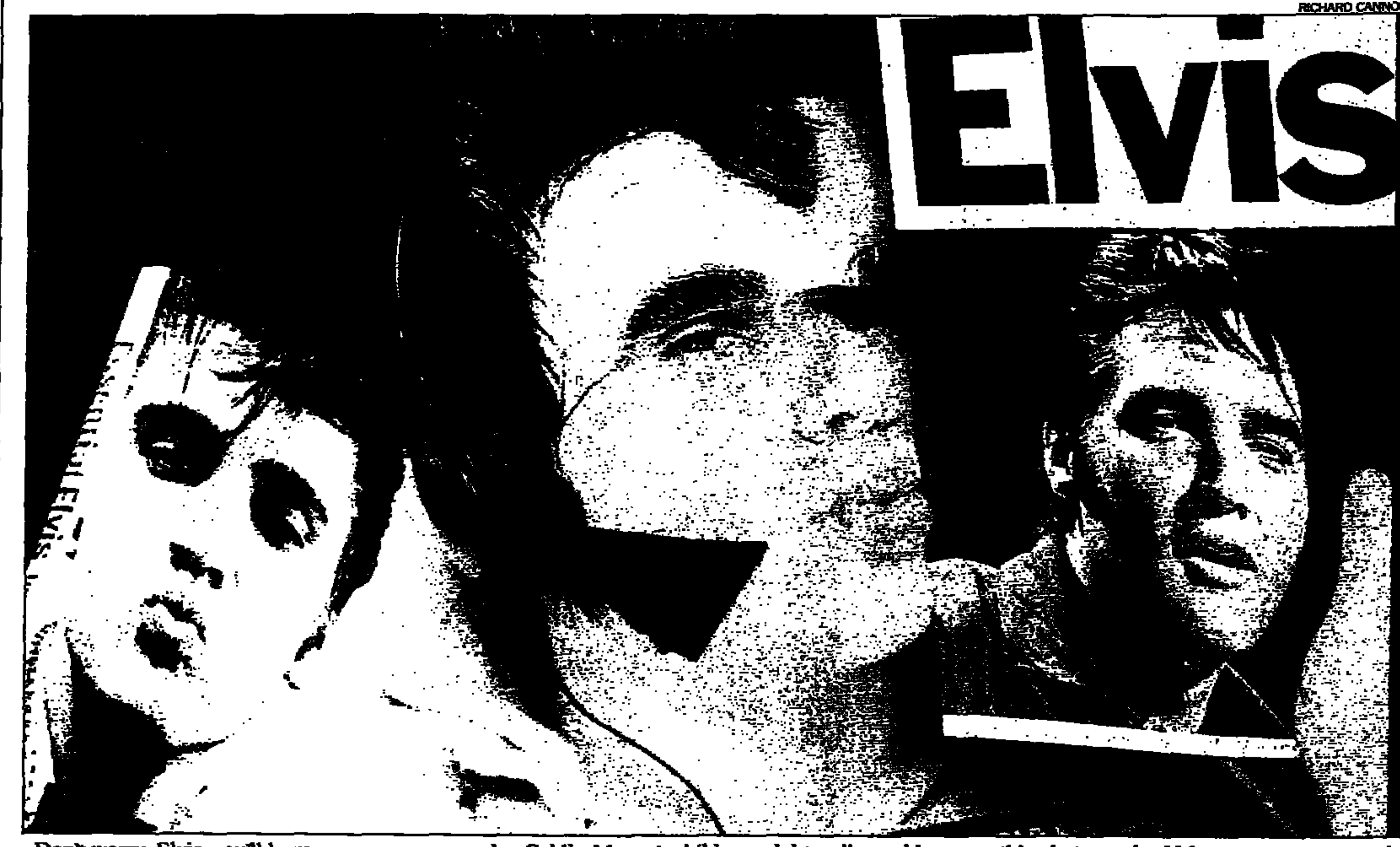
YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS (18): Neil LaBute's sex-obsessed comedy of manners tracks the anxieties of six yuppie, thirtysomethings. With Nastassja Kinski, Aaron Eckhart

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG): Jenny Seagrove and Anthony Edwards star in a quirky Valentine comedy where they outwit the dastardly dentist, Charles Dance. Seagrove is magnificent

JACK FROST (PG): Michael Keaton comes back to life as a snowman to spend quality time with his son. The heatwave doesn't come quick enough.

Caitlin Moran dons the jumpsuit, gets in the burgers, and pigs out to the King for 24 hours

RICHARD CANNON



Don't worry, Elvis, you'll have your revenge: one day Caitlin Moran's children might well stumble across this photograph of Mummy as a young gel

Stuck in Disgraceland

I have never loved Elvis. I stand in the same corner as tartan-wearing Brummie band the Wonder Stuff (they called their third album *Never Loved Elvis*) and rap group Public Enemy (who explained, very reasonably, that "Elvis was a hero to millions, but he never meant [rude word] to me".) I just don't get it: he looked too much like the sulky Tanita *Twist in My Sobriety* Tikaram to be fanciable; I genuinely think all three girls in Bananarama have better voices: and I am alone in the world in not being able to do an Elvis impression. I have to hold my curled lip in place with a finger, and when I say "Thangyouvermush", it sounds Yugoslavian. Woeful.

But he's the King. He's sold 500 million billion albums. When grey-faced men with big sideburns talk about him, tears pool in their eyes.

As, given this evidence, I appeared to be missing out on the musical equivalent of the dicovery of the internal combustion engine, I decided to make a single, heroic effort: immerse myself fully in Elvis, and become either drowned or baptised in the attempt. Short of flying to Memphis in a jet shaped like a quiff, a 24-hour Elvisathon seemed to be the only answer. So . . .

7:30am. Breakfast. A Double Whopper, With Cheese. Quite nice, really: feels like Christmas. Feel regretful that I didn't attempt Elvis's admirable breakfast from 1972: five hot fudge ice-cream sundaes before he passed out.

7:36am. First record, from early Elvis. Recognise *That's All Right Mama* and *Mystery Train* — they're the hissing, yellow ghosts documentary-makers use during the Elvis Birthplace segment. It's all dust-bowl and shotgun wedding and utterly, utterly alien. Feel pensive. Have another burger.

10:11am. It's post-G.I. Hollywood Elvis. Hateful jauntiness: "I've never kissed a bear/ And I've never kissed a goose/ But I can shake a chicken in the middle of the room." I'm too old for this sub-Björk nonsense.

1.15pm. Get dressed in Elvis clothes. Jumpsuit very comfortable, like pyjamas.

1.30pm. Open-to-the-waist tunic a bit drafty. Rearrange spangly cape.

1.32pm. Still too cold. Add vest and jumper to ensemble. Gain insight into why Elvis wanted to insulate himself with burger-fat.

4pm. A thought strikes. He moved so smooth and hot they called him Elvis the Pelvis. What were the chances of that? Of the 0.0000001 people born every millennium who become famous for their hips, the most famous of them all had a name that rhymed with "pelvis". It's the same unholy serendipity that bequeaths Arsenal a manager called Arsène.

> ‘By the time he was 40 he was so humiliated, bored and helpless he medicated himself to death’

5:51pm. *Elvis's Gold Records — Vol 5.* Bad voodoo. I'm wasting a whole day listening to a bored, bombed millionaire mumble over expensive pub-rock. Feel hate for the stupid fat drugged gibbon rise and fill my craw. Throw CD under table. Try *Tiger Man — 30th Anniversary Edition of '68 Comeback*. Elvis's brain still not brightly shining: "Uh, are we on TV? Cough. Cough." Then he starts singing *Heartbreak Hotel* and, dear Lord, it sounds like rich black leather being ripped up by animals. Cor.

5.52pm. He's forgotten the lyrics to *Heartbreak Hotel*. Dearie me. This is rather like forgetting the words to *The Birdie Song*, surely? It's part of the brain's start-up disc, like heartbeat and balance. Even alkies who've forgotten their own name and species sing it into the gutter, nightly.

6.09pm. Eighth burger of the day. Now bypassing sesame seed bun and going straight for the meat — takes up less space inside. Feel like I'm packing my stomach like a holiday suitcase. Internal hinges bulging. Diamante sash becoming tight. Have one of Elvis's famous banana and peanut butter sandwiches (bananas will "soak up" meat, and turn it into good minerals). And a hot fudge sundae would . . . dear God! I'm thinking like him!

7:36pm — **midnight.** The Gospel Hours. Oh, so much gospel. Eat tenth burger, for something to do. Feel slightly radioactive. For comfort, ring a friend who's an expert on Elvis. "At Elvis's last concerts, he was so out of it they had to wheel him onstage in a shopping trolley," he says. Listen to live CD from that era. Elvis is singing comedy lyrics to *Are You Lonesome Tonight?* and his circle of sycophants giggles like drunken monkeys. They are actually amused by a man sabotaging the only thing he was born with, and the only thing he would die with: the ability to sing the first four bars of *Heartbreak Hotel* like a jaguar driving a Jaguar.

And so, 17 hours into my Elvisathon, I finally get why Elvis is such a potent symbol for the millions of men who trudge from stultifying job to cheap pub and back again: he was the first passive male icon of the 20th century. The State broke him during his National Service; Colonel Tom Parker put him in harness for all those terrible, drossy movies: and by the time he was 40 he was so humiliated, bored and helpless he medicated himself to death.

1.05pm. I take off my stinky rubber wig and go to bed. I've worked out why I never loved Elvis. He was a loser.

Post modern lover

Best known as an offbeat cult hero, Jonathan Richman first came to prominence in the punk era. In 1972 his band, the Modern Lovers, recorded a series of demos with John Cale as producer. The songs, which included *Roadrunner* and *Pablo Picasso*, were so far ahead of their time that when they were finally given a release four years later, they amounted to a full-blown punk album. Richman went on to a solo career and recently appeared in the romantic comedy *There's Something About Mary*, in which he played a one-man Greek chorus and got to preview songs from his new album, *I'm So Confused*.

LIVE GIG

Jonathan Richman
Jazz Café, NW1

As the first show in a three-night run at London's Jazz Café showed, a live venue is still the setting that suits him best. Accompanied by just a stand-up drummer, Tommy Larkins, Richman kicked straight into the 1950s-style *Fender Stratocaster*, and immediately won over the audience by unstrapping his guitar and casually dancing across the stage with it.

The first thing that you notice about Richman is how incredibly young and vulnerable he looks. Now 47, Richman came across like an overgrown child: a notion that was reinforced by the endearing way he apologised for being late and by new songs such as *True Love Is Not Nice*.

Although the songs from Richman's latest album went down well, it was *Pablo Picasso*, followed by *I Was Dancing at the Lesbian Bar*, which got the best response. The audience sang along with the title line of the latter, while Richman danced with his guitar. Later on, he paid tribute to his favourite band in *The Velvet Underground* and by the end of the set grown men were screaming out, "We love you".

The encore was called *The Night is Still Young*, which led the crowd to expect more. And, after about five minutes, Richman returned. But, rather than playing a song, he simply said: "That's the end of my show — I just didn't want you to wait around." He then sang *Arrivederci Roma* — his black-and-white stripes making him look like a bizarre gondolier.

ANN SCANLON

POP ALBUMS
Sebadoh find ambition

ARTS

JAZZ ALBUMS
Two promising debuts

A heart full of soul

Damon Albarn has checked in to Heartbreak Hotel and produced Blur's best album to date. Nigel Williamson had a foretaste

In one of those twists of fate, Alan McGee was in Stockholm attending a Sony conference on the day that Blur chose to stage the world launch of their new album, *13*, in the Swedish capital.

As the head of Oasis's record label, Creation, McGee was one of the generals at the heart of the ludicrous battle of the bands waged at the zenith of Britpop a year or two ago between Britain's two premier groups. In fact, McGee was spotted neither at the Munchenbryggeriet, an old converted brewery where Blur played all but two of the songs from their new album to a music industry audience which had flown in from as far away as Brazil, Japan, and Australia; nor at the triumphant party afterwards, where Damon Albarn and what seemed like half of Sweden celebrated until dawn at the Spy Bar, Stockholm's coolest nightspot.

At the height of the battle of the bands, Oasis were deemed by most observers to have emerged comfortable winners, the coolest icons in the Cool Britannia pantheon. Listening to the new Blur album, it becomes apparent that what Oasis won was little more than a pointless skirmish over a plot of no man's land called Britpop that has since been left far behind by Albarn and company, who all the time had their sights set on more expansive horizons.

If McGee had been at the Blur showcase, it would surely have reduced him to despair. The band's last album, *Blur*, had already indicated a move away from the breezy pop songs of *Parklife*, the only album of the mid-1990s to challenge the supremacy of Oasis. But if it wasn't already dead on its feet, Britpop is buried forever by *13*, an audacious collection of songs that makes much of what Blur have done in the past sound one-dimensional. It is an emotionally charged, avant-garde panoramic soundscape that seizes the initiative and will set the musical agenda well into the new millennium. In short, *13* is the album of their lives, an awesome, futuristic piece of work that feels as if they have been in training for ten years simply to make this record.

Yet it was still a bold step to play almost in its entirety an album that was completely unfamiliar to most of those present and Albarn later paid tribute to the audience. "Thank you for being so appreciative. It's not easy listening to a dozen songs you've never heard before," he said.

In fact, it had not really been difficult at all because, despite a more experimental sound coaxed out of the band by producer William Orbit (who last year assisted Madonna's latest reinvention on *Ray Of Light*), the songs on *13* display an emotional commitment we have rarely heard from Blur before. There was a celebratory encore including *Beetlebum*, *Popscene* and *Song 2* but by then we were already convinced that we had just witnessed the unveiling of the album of the year. The emotion comes from the fact that Albarn wrote many of the songs in the wake of his break-up with his long-time partner, Elastica's Justine Frischmann.

And it shows. Albarn is no longer the wryly detached observer we are familiar with from songs such as *Girls and Boys* or *Stereotype*, and you can see why he describes *13* as Blur's "soul record" — not that he sounds like Otis Redding, simply that misery always did have the best tunes and here Albarn bares it all.

The pain is there for all to hear on *Tender*, the bittersweet eight-minute single complete with a gospel choir on which he sings "Tender is the touch of someone that you love too much/Tender is my heart for screwing up my life/Lord, I need to find someone who can heal my mind".

It is there on *Trailerpark*, on *Trimm Trabb* and on *No Distance Left to Run*, with which they closed the set in Stockholm. "Its over, there's no need to tell me/Hope you're with someone who makes you feel safe in your sleep tonight/I want to kill myself for trying to stay in your life... When you see me, please turn your back and walk away/I don't want to see you," Albarn sings, and you can almost hear his heart breaking.

Musically the album's dark atmospherics and spooky moods are closer in spirit to such contemporary sonic adventurers as Beck, Tortoise and Spiritualized than Britpop inspirations such as the Beatles and the Kinks. In 1995, with the Blur-Oasis war raging, Albarn predicted, tongue only partly in cheek, that by 1999 Blur would be the most important band in the world. When the planet at last gets the chance to hear *13* next month, who will argue that he was not right?

● *13 is released on March 15. The single,* Tender, *is released on Monday*



On the couch: Blur's new album, *13*, explores the damaged soul of Damon Albarn after the break-up of his relationship with Justine Frischmann

Alternative definite article

NEW POP ALBUMS

SEBADOH
The Sebadoh
(Domino WIGCD57 £14.99)

HAVING spent longer on the margins of alternative rock than it takes most groups to achieve global stardom and then fade back into obscurity, Sebadoh are showing definite signs of ambition along with the definite article that graces their impressive seventh album, *The Sebadoh*.

The battle for the band's soul continues between singers and guitarists Lou Barlow and Jason Loewenstein, both of whom garner seven songwriting credits apiece from among the album's 15 tracks (the other one going to the band's new drummer Russ Pollard for *Break Free*, a song that sounds like an instant grunge standard).

Barlow is the more engaging singer and clearly the more accomplished writer. "I fly no flag, ever," he once declared and his songs range from the uptempo hit single *Flame*, with its slamming four-on-the-snare beat, to the poignant *Love is Stronger*, a sublime rock-ballad which proceeds from the intriguing proposition that "Love is stronger than the truth". But Loewenstein is no slouch, even if he does parade his Nirvana/Pearl Jam influences a little too obviously on the likes of *It's All You* and *Decide*.

If the pair simply pooled their efforts under a joint credit along the lines of the Jagger/Richards trademark, the comparisons between the two of them would cease to be an issue overnight. More to the point, all three musicians are pulling together on *The Sebadoh* in a way that not only brings a new dimension to the band's hitherto rather ragged sound, but also breathes fresh life into a nonconformist strand of rock'n'roll that has been looking decidedly pallid, until now.

JIMI TENOR
Organism
(Warp WARPCD60 £14.99)

THE Finnish keyboard, sax and flute player Jimi Tenor remains one of pop's more engaging enigmas. His last album, *Intervision*, was an inspired if bizarre mixture of one-note techno themes and loungecore lunacy underpinned by some surprisingly sophisticated jazz-fusion chops. Was he for real? Apparently so, for here he is again with *Organism*, an even more unlikely collection of lo-fi productions ranging from the ZZ Top-meets-Funkadelic groove of *Total Devastation* to the Björkesque soundscape of *City Sleeps* ("I lie in the quiet gloom of my bed and inhale the scent of ozone").

The album is steeped in movie and video-game lore — *Serious Love* is adapted from the soundtrack to the Nintendo *Goldeneye* game — and there is a seriously spooky undercurrent to *Muchmo* and the single, *Year of the Apocalypse*. Although he does not have the confidence to sing without camouflaging his voice in layers of echo and distortion effects, the instrumental drama in tracks such as *Xinotepe Heat* and the creepy love song *Sleep* is more than enough to command attention, if not necessarily affection.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Prodigy Present The Dirtchamber Sessions Volume One
(XL 128 £15.99)

NOT a Prodigy album despite its misleading title, *The Dirtchamber Sessions* is a DJ/mix set by Liam Howlett, structured along the lines of *Live at the Social* by the Chemical Brothers and Fatboy Slim's *On the Floor at the Boutique*. Thus, a vast number of records by other acts (about 50 in 50 minutes) are seamlessly intercut, cross-faded and segued together by Howlett, with everything from Barry White to the Sex Pistols being shoehorned into one, long, big beat-driven soundtrack.

Kool Keith's *Smack My Bitch Up* rap gets another prominent airing, alongside a snippet from *Time to Get Ill* by the Beastie Boys, who were one of Prodigy's most energetic critics last year. But otherwise there are few surprises.

BARENAKED LADIES
Stunt
(Reprise 9362-46963 £15.99)

THEY were once dubbed the Fat Canadian Housemartins by a wag with a kindred sense of humour, and you can see why. For Barenaked Ladies are one of those smart-alec groups who woo their audience with quirky melodic hooks and a glib humour as opposed to more traditional notions of pop star cool (see also They Might Be Giants, Beautiful South and others).

Now, with the success of their single, *One Week*, they seem to have struck a chord in Britain at last, and their fourth album, *Stunt*, will doubtless appeal to those with a penchant for hyperactive pop choruses harnessed to lyrics that betray a discordantly bleak and misanthropic world view.

"If I had a gun there'd be no tomorrow" runs the jaunty *I'll Be That Girl*. Thank goodness, like most of the album, it plays better than it reads.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

LINKS

WEBSITES:
Sebadoh: www.sebadoh.com
Jimi Tenor: www.warprecords.com
The Prodigy: www.theprodigy.co.uk
Barenaked Ladies: www.bnlmusic.com
TELEVISION:
Top of the Pops, BBC1, tonight 7.30pm
Later With Jools Holland, BBC2, tonight 1.05am
RADIO:
UK Top 40, Radio 1, Sunday 4pm

TOP TEN ALBUMS

Pos	(Last week)	Title	Artist (Label)
1	(3)	I've Been Expecting You	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
2	(1)	You've Come a Long Way, Baby	Fatboy Slim (Skint)
3	(2)	Talk on Corners	Corrs (Atlantic)
4	(5)	The Miseducation of	Lauryn Hill (Columbia)
5	(4)	Step One	Steps (Jive)
6	(7)	Ladies & Gentlemen - the Best of	George Michael (Epic)
7	(6)	Forgiven, not Forgotten	Corrs (Atlantic)
8	(-)	No Exit	Blondie (RCA/Beyond)
9	(22)	Love Songs	Dr Hook (EMI)
10	(13)	Life Thru a Lens	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)

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New life in the reeds

JAZZ ALBUMS

GILAD ATZMON TRIO
Take It or Leave it . . .
(Face Jazz FJCD1)

SINCE settling in London in the mid-1990s, the Israeli-born reedsman Gilad Atzmon has established himself as a passionately ebullient improviser, as at home with the quicksilver intricacies of bebop as the compressed energy of rock and funk. Here, on his debut CD as leader, he spearheads a muscular but supple trio — completed by the alternately whirring and singing bass of Val Manix and the tumbling drums of Sam Anstice Brown — in an intelligently varied programme of standards (*My Funny Valentine*, *These Foolish Things*, *Our Love is Here to Stay*) and powerful, scurrying originals.

Atzmon's alto playing has all the scalding intensity of, say, Jackie McLean or Kenny Garrett, but his clarinet playing is utterly distinctive: plangent and inventive, its adaptability enables Atzmon not so much to reinterpret as entirely to reconstruct the standards upon which is it employed.

LOZ SPEYER QUARTET
Two Kinds of Blue
(33 Jazz 043 CD)

ANOTHER 1990s band with an electric guitar where once a piano would have been, the Loz Speyer Quartet play sparky, open, attractive jazz with all the punch and accessibility customarily associated with rock music. Speyer himself, on both trumpet and the slightly warmer-toned flugelhorn, packs a solid punch; guitarist Andy Jones is a confident partner, equally adept at the limber fluency associated with jazz guitar and the exuberance frequently heard from rock soloists. Propelled by the hard-driving drums of Tony Bianco and the eloquent bass of Richard Jeffries, *Two Kinds of Blue* is a promising debut.

CHRIS PARKER

Lessons of the past for BBC's future

The Davies committee must have a vision for Auntie's destiny, says **David Elstein**, chief executive of Channel 5

The appointment of the committee chaired by Gavyn Davies to consider the future of the licence fee is doubly significant. It marks the sixth time in 50 years that a committee of inquiry has been set up to help to shape British broadcasting. Davies, chief international economist of Goldman Sachs, follows in the footsteps of Beveridge (who was appointed in 1949 and reported in 1951), Pilkington (1962), Annan (1977), Hunt (1982) and Peacock (1986).

If the gap since Peacock is not quite the longest in this sequence, it should be noted that Annan was originally appointed in 1970 and had to wait for Labour to return to office in 1974 before he was allowed to resume his work. The revival of the inquiry mechanism by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is both timely and welcome.

Each of those five reports heralded major changes in British broadcasting. Beveridge led — indirectly — to the launch of ITV in 1955. Pilkington to the launch of BBC2 in 1964 and Annan to the launch of Channel 4 in 1982. It was Hunt's recommendations that released cable TV from being simply an alternative method of receiving terrestrial channels. And, of course, it was Peacock who opened the way for the auction of ITV licences, the separate selling of Channel 4's airtime and the emergence of the independent production industry.

Peacock interpreted his terms of reference well beyond the immediate issues that he had been asked to address, of whether there were viable alternatives to the licence fee and what impact their introduction would have. His revolutionary report took him just a year to produce, from first meeting to last. Davies has six months — the same as Lord Hunt — and it will be fascinating to see how far he follows Peacock's precedent, given the superficial similarities in their terms of reference. Those who assume his report will automatically adopt his previously published views should remember that the Peacock Committee was dominated by exponents of the free market, but rejected advertising and sponsorship as replacements for the licence fee, preferring subscription, but only in the long term.

The other key significance of the Davies inquiry is that it takes the licence fee out of contention. It is safe until at least 2006, and probably beyond — even the most enthusiastic supporter of subscription knows it cannot play a substantial role until the vast majority of TV sets have converted to digital. By the time Sir John Birt's successor takes office, Davies will have reported and the Government will have decided the future funding of the BBC well into the next decade — the first time that a Labour administration will have been responsible for such a fundamental structural decision based on a committee of inquiry's recommendations.

With the funding question off the agenda, the key question facing Birt's successor will be how the BBC operates as a public sector broadcaster in a competitive commercial world: by 2006, there could well be 12 million multi-channel homes. The scope and limitations of the market, the nature of the public interest and the role of public service broadcasting in the modern age, the interface between the public broadcaster and the commercial world, the challenge of digital, the need for accountability, the task of delivering and demonstrating value for money — all these must be fully understood by any new Director-General.

Equally important will be a deep knowledge of the creative process, reinvigorating creative morale, a strong sense of the BBC's unique heritage and an ability to recapture the trust and affection of the licence payers who have enabled the BBC to become what it is — the most respected public broadcaster in the world and the most important cultural institution in Britain.

The Davies report and the new Director-General must have a vision of the future that will serve the BBC for decades, not just till 2006.

The Hunt and Peacock reports of the 1980s seemed to mark the end of the old, closely regulated system of broadcasting that persisted for more than 60 years.

The effective end of spectrum scarcity — with the growth of cable, satellite and now digital — undermined an entire rationale of carefully controlled expansion that culminated in the creation of a Channel 4 designed to serve a supplementary, rather than a directly competitive, role in UK broadcasting.

Governments and regulators concentrated more on laying down the rules of the game than on defining the shape of the pitch.

Of late, though, managing spectrum has returned to fashion. Digital terrestrial TV has allowed ministers and regulatory bodies once again to draw up a broadcasting map and place the BBC at the heart of it. The centrality of the BBC — all the more emphatic should Channel 4 eventually be privatised — explains why the Davies Committee is so important: and offers us a line of continuity that can be traced to Beveridge 50 years ago — and, indeed, back to 1922.

The lessons of that history are still relevant today. The BBC's past is connected to its future. That future must be the concern of every citizen, every consumer of broadcast services and every participant in the cultural life of Britain.

● *The author will deliver six lectures on the political structure of post-war British broadcasting to the Oxford University English faculty as the 1999 News International Visiting Professor in Broadcast Media. The lectures will be on February 23 and 25 and March 2, 4, 9 and 11.*

'We won't shoot you. They may'

Raymond Snoddy previews Peter Taylor's TV series on Ulster loyalists

The senior Provisional IRA man sipped his tea in the Andersonstown Community Centre and asked the television journalist Peter Taylor what his next project was after *Provos*, his illuminating study of the republican paramilitaries. Taylor, who has been going to Northern Ireland for more than 25 years, said he was going to try to do the loyalists next. "He smiled," says Taylor, "and said 'Be careful. We wouldn't shoot you, but they would.'"

Taylor does not know to what extent the IRA man was joking, but the reaction was an indication of the likely difficulties, if not dangers, of persuading the Protestant paramilitaries to talk to the camera about what they had done and why they felt compelled to do it.

the media interview

"The loyalist side has largely been untold because most journalists didn't want to tell it and, more importantly, the community and paramilitaries have not wanted to tell it. They have been deeply suspicious of journalists, particularly the BBC," says Taylor, a contract journalist employed by the Corporation.

Curiously enough, making *Provos* helped Taylor to get close to the loyalist paramilitaries: "Almost without exception they had seen *Provos*. It was virtually required viewing. These were the people they had been trying to kill and who had been trying to kill them."

After many meetings, Taylor and his producer, Sam Collyns, met a dozen members and leaders of the Ulster Volunteer Force in an upstairs room on Belfast's Shankill Road. The conversation continued nearby over fish and chips as loyalists chatted in a matter-of-fact manner about killing people, bombing places and shooting up pubs in what they saw as their war against the IRA.

Taylor explained to them that this would be no public relations exercise but a warts-and-all portrait. They would be asked about whom they had killed. There would be no masks or shadows. They would have to face the camera and be named. One of the most horrific stories Taylor tells concerns Billy Giles from East Belfast. In retaliation for an IRA murder of a Sunday school teacher, he shot a young Roman Catholic workmate, who had been to his home, simply because he was the most available target.

Taylor met Giles in the Maze Prison, where he was serving a life sentence, kept in touch as he completed an Open University degree, and then on his release helped with the rehabilitation of other loyalist prisoners. But last September Giles ended it all. One night he sat down, wrote a moving testament and then hanged himself, unable to live with the memory of what he had done.



In *Loyalists* Taylor explores the motives behind the violence. "They set out to kill Catholics to put pressure on the IRA"

Another ordinary-looking man, who could be anybody's neighbour, tells how he was ordered to kill a Catholic, any Catholic, after an IRA bomb killed six Protestant pensioners in Coleraine. Jim Light was sentenced for shooting a 17-year-old student just because he was a Catholic in the wrong place at the wrong time. Taylor asks Light in the film if he hesitated before pulling the trigger. "No hesitation," Light replies.

One of Taylor's recent tasks has been to telephone the relatives of victims, such as the mother of the dead student, to warn them what will be on the screen when *Loyalists* begins on Sunday. Key loyalist politicians are also interviewed, including Bill Craig, the former Unionist minister, unrepentant about his hard line when the Troubles reignited, the Rev Ian Paisley, and David Trimble, the leader of the Northern Ireland Assembly. In making the series, apart from telling "an untold story", Taylor wanted to challenge the stereotype of the loyalists as bigots in bowler hats always saying "no", and explore the motives behind the loyalist violence that led to the deaths of more than 1,000 Catholics, most with no paramilitary connections.

"The main lesson is that loyalist violence was not mindless. They deliberately set out to kill Catholics to put pressure on the IRA. They believed it worked, although that is debatable," says Taylor, who was sent to Northern Ireland on his first television assignment for ITV's *This Week* in the aftermath of the Bloody Sunday shootings in 1972. He arrived in the Bogside in Londonderry on the evening of the killings by the British Army, when you could "cut the silence with a knife", and started knocking on doors in the expectation of being denounced as a murdering Brit. Instead he was invited in and offered tea and cake as local residents described what had happened.

In his journalistic career Taylor has covered everything from American politics to wars in Africa and the Middle East. But, having made more than 50 documentaries on Northern Ireland, he is almost reconciled as being best known as the Yorkshireman who has done more than anyone to explain the complexities of Northern Ireland to his fellow Englishmen — quite apart from illuminating the Province's warring tribes to each other.

After giving a talk about the making of *Provos* in the nationalist Ardoyne district of Belfast, he was amused to be approached by a man who asked: "Is that community a mirror image of ours?" Taylor suggested that he watch the programmes, although of course the answer is yes.

Taylor does not regret spending so much of his career on one story. "It has dominated our political lives throughout the 20th century, and the past 30 years in particular. I do it because it is not over yet," says Taylor, a quietly spoken Cambridge history graduate. His aim is not, he says, to glorify violence or political terrorism, merely to recognise that it exists. "It is an attempt to explain why it exists, how it might end and to remind people what suffering means," adds Taylor, who also wants to mark the transformation that has taken the loyalist extremists from violence to the Good Friday agreement.

For Taylor, going to the province is like going home. One day he hopes to make a documentary about a Northern Ireland finally at peace with itself.

● Loyalists *begins on BBC2 on Sunday at 5pm.* Loyalists, *by Peter Taylor, is published by Bloomsbury, £16.99.*

Populism rules OK!

CLAWS ARE being sharpened among celebrity gossip magazines as the long dominance of *Hello!* comes under threat from the burgeoning *OK!* Latest ABC circulation figures, reported in **Press Gazette**, show that *Hello!* suffered a year-on-year fall of 11.1 per cent in the second half of last year, down to 510,552, while *OK!* was up by a massive 76.9 per cent, to 400,701. Martin Townsend, *OK!*'s Editor, says the gap is narrowing because his populist choice of celebrities is more relevant to readers than *Hello!*'s unrecognisable aristocrats. Overall, the ABC figures were bad news for publishers with sales declining in most sectors, including magazines for women, teenagers and football fans.

■ ITV'S QUIZ show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* has been so successful that the network is upping the asking price to potential sponsors when it returns on March 8, says **Marketing**. The first two series were sponsored by *The Sun* for £1 million but the newspaper is unwilling to pay more and ITV is searching for a new sponsor. The last series attracted an average of 12 million viewers, with one edition going up to 17 million.

■ TALK RADIO'S chairman, Kelvin MacKenzie, has asked the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, to press the European Broadcasting Union to let Talk become a member. **Broadcast** reports that Talk wants to compete with BBC Radio 5 Live in covering the Euro 2000 football tournament and the Sydney Olympics but the EBU controls the radio rights and will only grant them to members. MacKenzie says this is anti-competitive and anti-commercial.

■ PROSPECTS for the long-delayed relaunch of the Mirror Group's *Sporting Life* now look rosier, says **Press Gazette**.



New market research by the group suggests that the paper, repositioned to cover sports and leisure, could sell around 220,000 a day, compared with the 150,000 originally projected. A decision whether to go ahead will be made next month.

■ THE INSURANCE company Commercial & General Union will sponsor the new one-day county cricket league, according to **Marketing Week**. The league replaces the Sunday competition formerly sponsored by AXA. Meanwhile **Marketing** reports that Guinness will sponsor ITV's coverage of the Rugby World Cup in October.

■ CHANGING FACES: Elsa McAlonan, acting editor of *Marie Claire*, to replace Marcelle D'Argy Smith as Editor of *Woman's Journal*; Phil Hilton from *Men's Health* to edit *Later*, a men's magazine soon to be launched by IPC (**Press Gazette**). Bill Thompson, former head of art at J. Walter Thompson, to be senior art director at McCann-Erickson (**Campaign**). Jane Scott from GJW agency to head corporate affairs in Scotland for Boots; Clare Harbord from Eagle Star to be a director of PR agency Countrywide Porter Novelli (**PR Week**).

John Bishop, Carlton TV's head of entertainment and comedy, to quit the company; Heather Rabbatts, chief executive of Lambeth council, to be a governor of the BBC (**Broadcast**); Vanessa Griffiths, marketing manager for BBC Radio 4, becomes head of marketing for network radio; Linda Pigott quits as managing director of marketing agency Evans Hunt Scott after only eight months (**Marketing**).

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: Somerfield and Kwik Save supermarkets pick Leo Burnett for £14 million ad account; low-calorie lager Bud Light to be launched in Britain with £4.2 million press and poster campaign by BMP DDB; Universal McCann spearheads £1 million campaign for Gonzalez Byass to improve the image of sherry (**Marketing**). IPC Magazines splits £10 million media budget between Mediacom TMB and Walker Media (**Media Week**). Esso to overhaul European advertising and marketing, currently handled by McCann-Erickson; Airtours reviews its media arrangements, now with Media Principles; Evans Hunt Scott to handle relaunch of financial services provider M & G; Young & Rubicam win £60 million global account for Barilla foods (**Campaign**).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN



Vanessa Feltz feels she is the victim of a media witch-hunt

Tabloids smirk as BBC squirms over 'fake' guests

BBC chiefs have only themselves to blame for the Vanessa fiasco

Carol Midgley

It is hard not to feel a twinge of sympathy for Vanessa Feltz, the galumphing BBC talk-show host who woke up one morning to find she was playing the lead role in one of the most ridiculous farces in BBC history.

The studio "guests" who appeared on *The Vanessa Show* to share their harrowing stories of obesity and sex addiction turned out to be a motley collection of bit-actors and conmen who had been supplied by an agent and were willing to talk any old rubbish to get three minutes of glory on daytime TV.

That revelation by *The Mirror* has caused a public confidence crisis for our state broadcaster which will *not* abate for some time. Every national newspaper and even the BBC's own *Newsnight* have followed the story, calling for heads to roll. Alan Yentob, Director of BBC Television, is personally overseeing an internal inquiry into the fiasco which has already resulted in the suspension of two producers and a researcher from the show.

Feltz, who was ignorant of the scam and proclaims herself "horrified", is aghast at the vehemence of press reaction. Dozens of pages have been devoted to the story, ridiculing the BBC and demanding that her "trailer trash" show be scrapped.

Sources say she feels it is a "personal witch-hunt" but Feltz is in fact irrelevant. Why the press has reported the debacle with so much glee has little to do with her and more to do with a longstanding grudge against "high and mighty" television. Papers such as *The Mirror* have seethed in silence for years as television has used the word "tabloid" as a handy label for anything that is deemed seedy or tawdry.

Editors have fumed as television curled its lip at their salacious stories but adopted the lofty approach of pointing to "press intrusion" while running all the gory details anyway. (This charge could also be levelled at some broadsheet newspapers.)

That it has been the thoroughness of tabloid reporting which has exposed allegedly shabby standards at the BBC is being regarded by the Mirror Group as the most delicious of ironies. Even more gratifying for *The Mirror* is the fact that the BBC is asking for co-operation in its inquiry, a request which has so far been refused.

Piers Morgan, Editor of *The Mirror*, says: "The BBC seems to think it is on a higher plane to the rest of us but this has shown it is just chasing ratings like everybody else. There is a sublime irony in the fact that the BBC, that most self-important of institutions, has been caught with its trousers down by a tabloid which has suffered years of sneers and jeers from the supposed pure end of the media market.

"We run real-life case studies every day. The idea that we would pay an agency to supply them is unthinkable. But we now find that the BBC, with its grand charter, has been doing so, which shows appalling hypocrisy."

Even loyal BBC insiders are finding that it's difficult to muster a defence. Meanwhile, many tabloid reporters are smirking with quiet satisfaction. They cite examples of being sent on doorstepping jobs only to find television crews already there. Within seconds they would find themselves being filmed knocking on doors and would see the footage used later to illustrate the intrusiveness of the press.

But there is a far more serious issue at stake than point-scoring between journalists, and it has far-reaching implications for the future of the BBC. The real question is not whether researchers knew that their guests were fakes when they hired them, but why the BBC commissioned such a dreadful programme in the first place.

Common sense tells us that the British are not the type to bare their souls readily on television. It is a culture that belongs to America and programmes such as *The Jerry Springer Show* and it should not be encouraged here, least of all by the BBC.

If producers make ridiculous demands on their researchers such as "Find me three women under 25 who have slept with more than 300 men by 4pm" then what do they really expect? If they want to exploit people from the gutter they should not be surprised to find themselves being exploited in return.

A number of minions will no doubt be sacked for this embarrassing episode. This might tie the matter up for BBC management but the ugly scars will remain. BBC executives would do better not to lay blame elsewhere and instead take a long, hard look in the mirror.

● *Raymond Snoddy is away*

Do we care about the truth?

Our fears over genetically modified foods have been fuelled by a media frenzy and inaccurate reporting, says Science Editor **Nigel Hawkes**

The scare over genetically modified food has been a classic example of a little-studied phenomenon, the media feeding frenzy. From small starts, frenzies quickly develop a terrible momentum. Sense and judgment are the first casualties: public understanding the final victim. For as long as it lasts, readers and viewers are buried in a blizzard of stories that compete to paint apocalyptic visions of horrors to come. Politicians shamelessly join in. Then, like a tap being turned off, it stops.

Absolutely the finest example in my experience was the flesh-eating bug which transfixed the press in the summer of 1994. This was a strain of *Streptococcus* capable of killing those unlucky enough to be infected with it.

> Readers are buried in a blizzard of horror stories

There was nothing new about the organism or the symptoms it caused, which had been beautifully described in a surgical journal by a doctor working in Shanghai as long ago as 1919. Nor was there any real evidence of an epidemic, or even a significant increase in the number of cases. Yet for a week or two the flesh-eating bug made huge headlines. Then it was gone — and hardly a word has appeared on the subject since.

The GM-food frenzy was triggered by a two-page spread in *The Guardian* on February 12, claiming that tests on GM potatoes had damaged rats which had eaten them. Curiously, an almost identical article which had appeared in *The Mail on Sunday* at the end of January had passed unnoticed.

The *Guardian* article, despite its length, did not address two key issues: that the GM potatoes tested were not intended as human food, and would never have passed muster as such; and that the gene inserted into them was for a toxin. Small wonder, perhaps, that they might have had damaging effects on the rats, though whether they actually did is still in dispute. By all normal journalistic standards, the story was holed below the waterline.

But it made no difference. The controversy quickly took wing, sprouting subplots and generating a tremendous row more or less about nothing. As it happens, GM foods have been better monitored and controlled in Britain than anywhere else in the world. Small trial plots are all that have been planted. No ill-effects to health have been observed, nor are they likely. Possible environmental effects are being carefully monitored. Is this the impression left by the row? I think not.

Frenzies are caused partly by bad reporting, but could only happen in an environment ripe for them. We live in a society increasingly anxious about risks, real and imaginary, as the sociologist Frank Furedi has pointed out in his book *The Culture of Fear*. He cites a study of the medical literature which showed that in the five-year period between 1967 and 1972, about 1,000 articles containing the word risk were published. In the period between 1986 and 1991, there were 80,000 such articles.

Had risks increased eightyfold in such a short time? Clearly not. We live in a far less risky time than our parents or grandparents. Today fewer than one woman in 10,000 dies in childbirth: in 1940, one in 300 did. The disappearance of the Soviet Union is the greatest risk reduction in our lifetimes: but better drugs, a more plentiful diet, social security and other changes have also cut the ordinary risks of life.

What has changed is attitude to risk. At a time when most risks are actually declining, people are worrying more. But they lack the skill to assess risks, to develop a true calculus of risk in which real dangers are distinguished from mere scares. Driving a car is far more dangerous than flying, but we seldom hear of people with driving-phobia.

The second reason comes closer to home for journalists. It sounds pompous to say so, but today's journalists are not much interested in the truth. As the American academic Peter Sandman of Rutgers University in New York puts it: "In the epistemology of routine journalism, there is no truth, or at least no way to determine truth. There are only conflicting claims, to be covered as fairly as possible."

So journalists feel they have done their job if they quote both sides of an argument, "tossing the hot potato of truth into the lap of the audience", as Sandman says. This approach has the effect of giving all sources equal value, of making the most outrageous claims seem credible — and a lot more interesting — than the sober responses elicited from official sources.

Nobody would want to deny a hearing to those opposed to GM foods, but crying wolf is seldom sensible, unless a wolf is truly at the door. If one believed all the scares floated by environmentalists and health campaigners, one would never set foot out of doors, though, of course, that would still leave one the option of falling down stairs.

Newspapers that join in a feeding frenzy put their reputations at risk and earn the contempt of readers who know about the subject. Worse, they help to create an atmosphere of fear which could threaten the forces which have made life less risky in the past century. Fortunately, I suspect that most readers treat frenzies with the disdain they deserve.

DAVID HOFFMAN PHOTO LIBRARY; NICK COBBING



A protester objecting to the planting of genetically modified oil seed rape. "Frenzies quickly develop a terrible momentum."

A sense of style for our Times

Why good English still matters to a few of us

A study of the style books used by sub-editors of *The Times* in the past 50 years shows that some injunctions never change. One is over the use of that very overworked word "very".

"Very — there was a time when 'very' was not allowed in *The Times* and it would be a good rule to restore. 'Very' hardly ever strengthens an adjective and often exaggerates. A very cold wind is in all probability only a cold wind: not Arctic. We might save two or three columns yearly by excluding 'very'. But in giving up 'very' we must not turn to 'most' or 'highly' or similar words by way of compensation."

That was written by the Editor, William Haley, in *The Times Style Book* of 1953.

"Very — its constant use inflates language without strengthening its meaning," said the style book of 1992. "Always delete 'very' and then see if it is really needed. That said, do not strip your writing of all idiom. 'She seems *very* English to me'. 'Nice? Not *very*'." The injunction remains in *The Times Guide to English Style and Usage*, compiled by Tim Austin and published as a book this week, though it is put more briefly: "Very — one of the most overworked words in English. Always try to omit."

Apart from writing more concisely, contemporary editors are less authoritarian. The style guide is precisely that — a guide not a straitjacket, says Peter Stothard, the Editor. Some spellings or constructions are a matter of choice: the rejected usages are not necessarily wrong. Stothard would argue that Haley was prescribing rules for a different audience in a different age: the public school elite of 50 years ago. Sport, TV, music did not matter so much to Haley whose audience was also older. Rules of grammar and spelling must still be prescribed, he says, but what is correct English for William Rees-Mogg or a leader writer will be different for sport or music columnists. Haley devoted 250 words to the termination *ise* or *ize*, arguing that *z* should be preserved in its proper place. Both *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* now opt for *ise* in the space of one or two lines.



Younger readers, many not taught English grammar, may wonder why fuddy-duddy editors still worry about style. They hear the English language spoken carelessly on radio and their parents swearing like troopers: and, as Keith Waterhouse has noted, bad language is the authentic English of the moment.

So why should newspapers bother? One reason is that with 30 million readers a day newspapers remain the guardians of the style and usage of the world's main common language. Another is that readers who do know the rules are intensely irritated by sloppy spelling and punctuation. A house style, as *The Daily Telegraph Style Book* puts it, provides conformity and imbues the newspaper with individuality. All newspapers share its ambitions for accuracy, immediacy, clarity and readability.

Both *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* remain prescriptive about clichés. Among those which *The Times* resists are backlash, blueprint, bombshell, chaos, clampdown, consensus, crackdown, major, mega-, nightmare and shock and situation.

The Daily Telegraph singles out "partner" for special odium: "Use girlfriend, boyfriend, companion, lover, mistress, concubine, friend or any other apposite word." It also bans prior to, bubbly, gunned down, blasted, mystery callers, perverted Scout leaders, frail grannies, disgraced managers, and innocent victims.

Style is one matter, taste another. One area where newspapers, particularly the tabloids, have deliberately lagged behind popular convention is over the use of four-letter words. At *The Times* and *Telegraph*, use of the F word always has to be referred upwards. At *The Times* it is allowed infrequently and only within quotations: otherwise it becomes f***. None of the tabloids uses either the F or C words, though other obscenities are allowed with asterisks.

But what editors are prepared to print is undoubtedly changing, especially on arts pages. As Waterhouse noted in the *British Journalism Review*, some broadsheets — he singled out *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday* — now have the vocabulary of Billingsgate porters.

● *The Guide can be ordered from The Times Bookshop (0990-134459) for £9.99.*

DES JENSON

James Brown revelling in his role last year as Editor of *GQ*

How Brown self-destructed

Carol Midgley on the rise and fall of the original lad

One year ago James Brown, the original lad, announced his drink and drugs days were over and that he had finally grown up.

Becoming Editor of *GQ*, he said, felt like coming home. Condé Nast was the best company he had ever worked for and he had "never been happier".

Yesterday, however, the love affair was in ruins. A strangely worded statement from Condé Nast said Brown had resigned by mutual consent over "philosophical differences" about the magazine's content.

What it really meant was that Nicholas Coleridge, managing director of the company, was incensed by the latest issue of *GQ* in which Brown listed the Nazis and Field Marshal Rommel in a roll call of the "sharpest men of the 20th century".

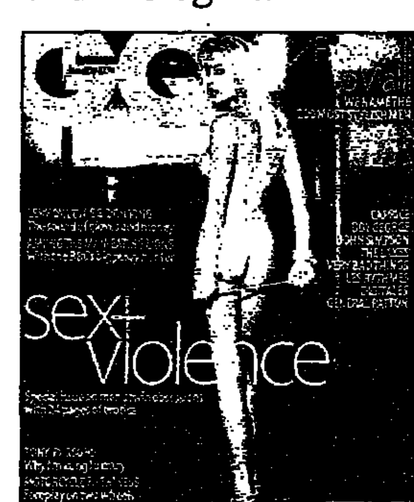
Rommel, who led the Nazi campaign in North Africa, is pictured in the uniform that Hitler chose for him, alongside Charles Laughton and Sammy Davis Jnr in the bracket of men who showed "style in the face of true adversity".

Predictably, the article caused a storm of protest from Jewish groups, which insiders say was seen to damage the respectable image of the *Gentleman's Quarterly*.

His case was not helped by a series of semi-pornographic photographs in the same issue, one featuring a naked woman an apparently stabbed and tied up in a blood-filled bath.

Condé Nast insiders said the general feeling was that Brown had overstepped the mark, naively believing that he was invincible.

Other colleagues who have known him longer, however, said it was only a matter of time before he pressed the "explode" button that has characterised both his genius and his capacity for destruction.



The *GQ* issue that went too far

Brown has now enjoyed years as the darling of the men's magazine market after creating *Loaded* and a previously non-existent market in laddism.

Within three years he had trebled *Loaded*'s circulation to around the half-million mark with a unashamed diet of sport, boobs and booze talk, and celebrated in style with well-documented drink and cocaine binges, earning the reputation of a bully editor.

Imitators such as *FHM* and *Maxim* were soon spawned, selling more than established women's glossies such as *Elle* and *Cosmopolitan*.

But it was when Brown was invited to reverse the fortunes of the ailing *GQ* that he cleaned up his act, went teetotal and declared that *Loaded* and *FHM* were for kids, not him.

He began wearing Savile Row suits and married his girlfriend, Caz, while setting up a magazine about his beloved Leeds United football team.

But although he managed to halt the scale of the decline, *GQ* did not pile on the sales that Condé Naste had hoped for. Most recent figures show it was selling 130,152 — way below its peak of 148,000.

Condé Nast apparently thought it was being brought too downmarket. Brown argued that he was making it cool and contemporary.

The statement from Nicholas Coleridge read: "During James's editorship the magazine's circulation has grown and he brought energy and humour to the editorial mix. He is a talented editor. We like him. Unfortunately, philosophical differences have arisen between James and Condé Nast over some aspects of the magazine's content. We have agreed to disagree."

A new editor is now being sought. Early names in the frame are Simon Hills and Dylan Jones.

Brown's statement added simply: "I have enjoyed my 18 months at *GQ*. The team and I have built a dynamic, modern men's magazine. It has been a great project and I'm looking forward to my next challenge."

Yesterday Brown spent the day with his lawyers. It is thought that since he secured a water-tight contract when he joined in 1997, he will receive a substantial pay-off.

Fleet Street tussles to tell a tale of Alastair Campbell



DON'T shoot the messenger, write a book about him. Three hopeful scribes are now lining up to pen a biography of Alastair Campbell, the Downing Street cheerleader. Peter Oborne, *The Express* columnist, has a start in that he has actually signed a contract, with Aurum Press. He expects his "unauthorised" work ("Alastair told me to bugger off," he admits) to be ready in time for the party conferences.

Eric Jacobs, biographer and drinking chum of the late Kingsley Amis, hopes to sign a contract soon, but awaits a reply to his letter to Campbell — a colleague on Eddy Shah's *Today* in 1986 — seeking his view on the project.

Contender number three is Anne McElvoy, of *The Independent*, who plans a book on new Labour but concedes that she might shift its focus to Campbell. She and Jacobs hope to persuade him to co-operate, to balance any evil insinuations from the right-wing Oborne, but the precedent is discouraging. Peter Mandelson gave Donald Macintyre a hand, to try to soften the impact of Paul Routledge's biography, but in vain: he has had to resign and the Macintyre tome has yet to appear.

■ I WISH the *Express* newspapers would stop fidgeting. This week the old *Sunday Express*, after 18 months as the spanking new *The Express on Sunday*, went back to calling itself the *Sunday Express*, shedding readers with each new skin. Summoned to explain this on BBC radio last Sunday, Michael Pilgrim, its executive editor, was asked why his paper (circulation 1,009,683) does so much worse than *The Mail on Sunday* (2,291,247).

"*The Mail on Sunday*," he snarled, "is full of hatred and revengefulness." Unlike the *Sunday Express*, so dripping with sweetness that Peter Oborne (see above) described Tony Blair this week as "morally repugnant and utterly damnable", while fellow-columnist Ann Widdecombe wondered if the Viagra-prescribing Dr Howard Stoate was "too daft to be an MP".

■ GARDENERS know how important breeeding is, so the *Independent on Sunday* is right to go for reliable stock in its choice of a new gardening correspondent. She is Sarah Raven, who used to write feelingly about flower arranging for *The Daily Telegraph*. Her husband, Adam Nicolson, is not only the grandson of Vita Sackville-West, creator of the famous garden at Sissinghurst, but the brother of . . . Rebecca Nicolson, deputy editor of the *Independent on Sunday*. So that's what is meant by a family newspaper.

■ AS head of ITV's daytime programming, Dianne Nelmes has been in the thick of the row over fake guests on *Trisha*, so she thought to relax last Sunday by taking her husband to the charity performance of *The Vagina Monologues* at the Old Vic.

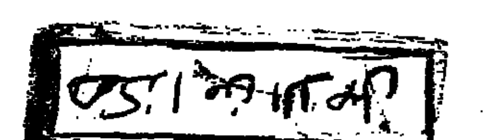
On the way out she was accosted by a young man who said that he was from *The Express*, seeking her reaction to the indelicacies on stage. When she demurred he assured her: "It's all right, you can use a false name if you like." No mention of a £100 fee, though.

■ MY only appearance on *Kilroy* was on April Fool's Day three years ago, when the subject was hoaxes. I had written an article denouncing the japes played on readers and television viewers on April 1, so my role on the show was to be the spoilsport. I did it so well that I was booed by the other guests, who told stories of incredible hoaxes that they had perpetrated or suffered. Inevitably, the producers inserted their own joke — a Eurocrat talking about a Brussels initiative to standardise humour — but he was more credible than the allegedly real people.

REUTERS



Biography target: Alastair Campbell with Tony Blair



Selling a dream

We are endlessly fascinated with other people's homes, says Grace Bradberry

There are days when I stand amid the falling masonry, exposed pipework and peeling paint of my new flat, and wonder if this might just represent "*shabby chic*". In my heart I know that even with the lights off and the walls glimpsed only by street lamp there is no way that this phrase, coined by Min Hogg to characterise the style of *World of Interiors* (which she edits), can be applied to my little pit in North London. But that is the point of interiors magazines — you can always dream.

We have become a nation of dreamers when it comes to our homes. Just look at the statistics for what is known as the "home interest" magazine market. Since 1989, the total circulation of all such titles in Britain has grown by 84 per cent. We now buy 2.5 million a month. Our appetite for pictures of other people's homes, with suitably revealing text, seems insatiable. Few of these magazines are entirely unpalatable. Nevertheless, some taste better than others, and *World of Interiors* is a truffle among the mushrooms.

With a circulation of 70,128, it is by no means a big seller (*House & Garden*, also part of the Condé Nast stable, sells 163,313). Yet the latest ABC circulation figures show that sales have risen year on year — by half a per cent — and this at a time when we seem to be on the brink of recession. Launched as *Interiors* in 1981, it is the child of Min Hogg, still its Editor. But the man instrumental in its commercial success is Tony Willett, who joined in 1982 and became its publisher in 1989. Having started as a salesman, Willett has done a great job of flogging this rather rarefied magazine to advertisers and the public.

While Min Hogg's own home has featured in the magazine, Willett would never dream of putting his own forward. He lives in a mock-Tudor house in a leafy Surrey street leading down to fields. Mock Tudor has a bad name, but this was its acceptable face, a beautiful light, 1920s house, with elegant windows and attractive woodwork.

It is surrounded by a large garden, in which Willet and his wife Ann, a journalist, have built their own gazebo. They have also rag-rolled the bedroom walls, papered the dining room a deep red, and filled the house with luxurious textiles. It is not, though, the sort of house to appear in *World of Interiors*, where the ethos is of rooms with "the edges knocked off them", as he puts it.

> 'We come across many houses that are ghastly'

World of Interiors is not really a showcase for the world of leading interior designers. It is more about one-off properties touched by personal taste and idiosyncrasy. I had assumed that men of Willett's age (he is 54) were probably the target market, and that my friends and I merely sad voyeurs. Not so. "The main age group is 20 to 44-year-olds, weighted to 20 to 34-year-olds," he says.

His own theory for this is: "There's a time when you grow out of experimentation, minimalism, having nothing to sit on, sleeping standing up. By middle age you should have decided what you want to do. And the older one gets, the more traditional one becomes." In *World of Interiors*, fading grandeur is more the magazine's style. The homes of pop stars and actresses rarely feature. There were rumours that Min Hogg had turned down Meg and Noel Gallagher's opulent pad, though Willett claims ignorance of this. He does admit: "We come across so many houses that are ghastly. They have had millions of pounds spent on them and they look dreadful."

Yet you would need if not millions, then several hundred thousand to buy most of the properties featured in the magazine. Even so, it is, apparently, more accessible than it was.

"In the early days it was like a Lamborghini — so rarefied that few people even aspired to it," says Willett. "Now it has retained that upmarket style while being approachable and inspirational."

In addition to the succulent interiors there are merchandising features, and this is where the accessibility comes in. "You'll find fabric there from £3 a metre up to £300 — in the old days it was more the equivalent of £150 up."

Willett wonders where it will all end. "The home interest market has grown to such an extent that it's almost inconceivable that there could be more magazine launches in 1999 — yet I know there are. Whether the industry can go on supporting even more home interest magazines, I don't know."



SIMON WALKER

Tony Willet, publisher of *World of Interiors*, at home. He has taken a rarefied magazine to the masses

The year of living Monica

Reporters addicted to the scandal are now bereft, says Ian Brodie

Suddenly Washington is fresh out of scandal. The awful realisation is dawning on legions of journalists in the American capital that the biggest political soap opera of their careers is over.

At first there was a sense of relief when President Clinton was acquitted of impeachment charges by the Senate last Friday. As senators raced to the airport for flights home, journalists adjourned to Capitol Hill watering holes to celebrate their escape from the gruelling demands of the year-long airing of laundry.

Promises were made to return to the normal pattern of life before Monica Lewinsky intruded. Faltering relationships would be repaired, children would be taken to soccer games. Everyone could at last take it easy. Then the reality of life after Monica began to sink in.

What could one do that would be so intriguing, challenging, competitive and shot through with sexual high jinks in the White House? Somehow, plans for saving pensions or cutting taxes would lack the compulsive fascination of presidential perjury over a "certain kind of sex", as the more fastidious papers and networks initially called oral sex. Maybe a war would help.

Careers were made and others faltered during the Year of Living Monica. Talk shows on cable television regularly devoted themselves to Monica all evening. Chris Matthews on CNBC's *Hardball* out-shouted the rest. His colleague Geraldo Rivera remained steadfastly pro-Clinton and is seeking an exclusive interview as his reward.

Two legal analysts on CNN, Greta Van Susteren and Roger Cossack, kept their heads amid the hubbub and drew the distinction between allegations and findings of guilt on their programme *Burden of Proof*.

There was a rash of Clinton-baiting blondes, led by Laura Ingraham on MSNBC, who discussed testicles and other appurtenances with a candour seldom heard on daytime television. Matt Drudge made his name by peddling Sexgate gossip on his swamp-dwelling website. What can he do for an encore?

At least Chief Justice William Rehnquist has his day job back at the Supreme Court. He will be remembered for the gold rings on the sleeves of his robe, an addition he made after admiring the costume worn by the Lord Chancellor in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*. ("It's a good thing he didn't see *La Cage aux Folles*," quipped Mark Russell, a Washington satirist.)

The Sunday network chat shows feasted on Monica week after week. Jonathan Turley, a law professor at George Washington University, appeared on at least one of the programmes for ten weeks in a row. His achievement was overshadowed by William Ginsburg, Monica's first lawyer, who was on all five shows in one day, a record that may stand for ever.

One fifth of the Senate, 20 members in all, were chat-show guests on the final Sunday before Mr Clinton's acquittal.

Print reporters filled acres of newsprint in hopes of becoming the new Woodward and Bernstein of Watergate fame. But there were too many leaks and too much competition for lone stars to shine. So, goodbye saturation coverage.

To be sure, there may be new legal grenades from Kenneth Starr. But unless either of the Clintons is put in legal jeopardy, the big headlines are over.

History repeats itself

Reporting on refugees does not change, says **Dominic Kennedy**

ARY 3, 1900.

SO-CALLED REFUGEES.

DISGRACEFUL SCENES IN CHESHIRE.

REMARKABLE STORY BY ONE OF THE SHIP'S OFFICERS.

"GERMAN JEWS POURING INTO THIS COUNTRY"

By Daily Mail Reporter

Daily Mail

NORTHCLIFFE HOUSE, LONDON, E.C. 4.
Telephone: CENtral 6000.

23rd March, 1938. 82nd Day.

REFUGEES

MANY Austrian refugees are arriving in this country, and in the majority of cases are being turned back. No one with any feeling of humanity can witness without compassion the sad plight of these and others who are fleeing from their own lands.

We're being swamped by crimewaves of migrants

THEY PICK-POCKET, BEG AND GET LEGAL ADVICE

Refugee tide rising

Asylum seekers likely to be record 46,000

'Benefit payouts £25m a month'

Peddling paranoia: the tendency in the popular press today to make a scapegoat of asylum seekers has an unsavourly precedent in media coverage of Jewish migrants early this century

Guess when this headline appeared in the Daily Mail? "So-Called Refugees. Disgraceful Scenes". Or this one in *The Sun*: "We're being swamped by crimewaves of migrants". Or this, the *Daily Mail*? "Refugee tide rising". Or this, the *Daily Mail* again. "Refugees Pouring Into This Country".

The years are 1900, 1998, 1999 and 1938. The latter — appearing in March 1938 — actually read: "German Jews Pouring Into This Country."

The popular press in Britain today, in particular the *Daily Mail*, has sunk its teeth into refugees. They are the new scapegoat, as other immigrants, including black people, were before them. Amazingly, the stories now being reported about Kosovans, Somalis and Gypsies are exactly the same tales peddled by the mass-circulation newspapers to cast a slur upon Jews early this century. The language is the same. The metaphors are identical. The argument is the same clever, wheedling reasoning used shamefully to stir up anti-Semitism until the horror of the Nazi gas chambers struck dumb the Establishment's Jew-haters.

> The press portrays asylum seekers as criminals, scroungers

The reporting of refugee issues in Britain is more important now than at any time since the 1930s. The Government will soon disperse throughout Britain the 30,000 asylum seekers who arrive here each year. To date, most have settled in London and Kent. But many towns and cities with no refugee communities will soon find themselves hosting people whose customs and languages are unfamiliar. What kind of welcome will they get after the press has fed readers a diet of stories portraying asylum seekers as criminals and scroungers?

The Government is so worried about public reaction that it is considering financing media initiatives to counter the mood of tabloid hysteria.

Just what are the stories that have served the press so well that they are still being vigorously reported, despite the fact that they have been stale for 100 years or so?

The *Daily Mail* report in 1900 told of the landing in Southampton of 600 "so-called refugees", their passage paid by the port's Lord Mayor's Fund. "Upon the testimony of the ship's officers, there was scarce a hundred of them that had, by right, deserved such help, and these were the Englishmen of the party," it read. "The rest were Jews. The ship seemed alive with them. All manner of Jews ... fought and jostled ... They had breakfasted well on board but rushed as though starving at the food ... Then, incredible as it may seem ... THEY BEGAN TO GAMBLE ... These were the penniless refugees, and when the Relief Committee passed by they hid their gold as they fawned and whined, and, in broken English, asked for money for their train fare."

A ship's officer tells the *Daily Mail* that the supposedly penniless refugees deposited thousands of pounds with the captain. Mrs Lachie Thompson, the matron, tells the reporter: "There are certainly some among the Jews who have ample means and are TAKING A CHEAP TRIP." She adds: "They were threatening to knife me."

Compare that with the press coverage today. "So-called refugees" have become "bogus refugees" or "economic migrants". The *Daily Mail* has written 37 articles about bogus refugees since 1995. Instead of the Lord Mayor's Fund, it is the welfare state which is now accused of naively supporting them. *The Sun*: "Bogus asylum seekers won a £540,000 lottery handout yesterday — to teach them how to milk our benefits system."

Fighting/jostling. *The Mirror*: "A riot broke out yesterday between African and Romanian refugees waiting to collect social welfare payments."

Broken English. *News of the World*: "Unable to work and speaking little English [asylum seekers] mill around waiting for state handouts."

Taking a cheap trip. *Daily Mail*: "Fury erupted over the 'scandal' of a Labour-run council forking out around £120-a-week a head for [asylum seekers] ... to stay at a picturesque holiday camp on the Welsh coast."

Threatening to knife matron. *Daily Mail*: "Brutal crimes of the asylum seekers ... At least 44 major trials ... have ended in the conviction of asylum seekers and illegal immigrants ... 17 were rape, attempted rape or serious sexual assault, and five were murder or attempted murder."

So what could we have learnt from the *Daily Mail* of August 1938? "'The way stateless Jews from Germany are pouring in from every port in this country is becoming an outrage. I intend to enforce the law to the fullest.' In these words, Mr Herbert Metcalfe, the Old Street magistrate, yesterday referred to the number of aliens entering this country through the back door — a problem to which the *Daily Mail* has repeatedly pointed."

The report concerns three Jews who were given six months in jail and recommended for deportation for illegally entering the country. Two had fled Berlin, one because her brother had been shot. Incredibly, an adjacent story from the *Mail*'s Berlin correspondent reveals that all German Jews whose first names are not recognisably Jewish must adopt the names Israel or Sarah.

A *Daily Mail* editorial in March 1938 applauds the policy of turning back most Austrian refugees. "Britain would be the first to give them all shelter if she could, but in this matter she owes a duty to herself ... To be ruled by the misguided sentimentalism of those who think with Colonel Wedgwood [the MP who proposed a Bill admitting destitute Austrian refugees] would be disastrous ..." The leader writer warns of "the floodgates" opening and the *Mail* puts the world's refugee population at 700,000.

Now look at the papers today. Illegal entry by refugees (who cannot get visas to come here legally as asylum seekers) remains the stuff of cheap slurs. *The Sun*: "Romanian gypsies ... are NOT refugees fleeing persecution. They are illegal immigrants who fell off the back of a lorry."

The opinion writers are using the same arguments as in 1938. The British would like to help but simply cannot. *Daily Mail*: "Yes, Britain must remain a haven for genuine victims of oppression. But ... Britain's traditional hospitality to those in real need is being abused." Then there are the attacks on the sentimental types. For poor Colonel Wedgwood, substitute George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who dared to describe Jesus as history's best-known refugee. *Daily Mail*: "What is it about the Archbishop of Canterbury that leads him unerringly to hit the wrong note at the wrong time?"

Metaphors of natural disaster are still being churned out. Refugees have been described as "a flood" by newspapers 370 times in the past five years. And the *Daily Mail* now puts the world's refugee population at 50 million. When next reading stories about asylum seekers, try substituting the word "Jew" for "refugee". Now do you feel like reading on?

The ad man's lament

"It's become like a First World War battle," said the 37-year-old man leaving the advertising business to go travelling. "It's very dispiriting when clients are not interested in what we're saying."

Adam Kirby was regarded as a high-flyer in advertising. As a senior executive working on the Stella Artois account at Lowe Howard-Spink, he was associated with one of the most famous and successful brands in the business. Then he moved to Bates Dorland, where he worked on the Heinz and Superdrug accounts.



"When I joined the industry 14 or 15 years ago, there was a less obsessive focus on each commercial made and there was less finger-pointing and back-covering," he continued.

"At every stage now you feel the heavy hand of the clients. They want to question everything. But if you had questioned Michelangelo about everything, even the Sistine Chapel would look rubbish."

Kirby appears to have touched a nerve with many in the business. Admen feel undervalued by clients and unempowered within their own agencies. Put bluntly, they feel unable to make a difference because they are not given enough individual responsibility and, in many cases, do not enjoy the trust of their clients.

It's their own fault. The advertising industry in the more pragmatic Nineties has failed to recapture the trust and respect of so many advertisers lost during the recession. There was a good deal of fat in Eighties advertising, but as long as everyone was making money, clients could afford to turn a blind eye to the admen's arrogance, to their fat margins and unseemly profligacy.

When the squeeze came, finance directors and a new breed of cost consultant started breathing down the necks of marketing directors. They demanded greater financial transparency from agencies that had traditionally made much of their money through mark-ups on production budgets rather than fees for thinking.

This clampdown fostered a climate of mistrust that has persisted. Clients believe ad agencies do not understand their businesses and how the role of advertising has changed. They feel agencies have failed to grasp the greater need to demonstrate advertising effectiveness, being obsessed instead with winning awards.

Agency people in return are stretched to breaking point. The ad industry shed more than 3,000 jobs in the years to 1992-93, many of which have not returned. The first area to be cut was graduate recruitment, which wasn't big in the first place. While PricewaterhouseCoopers seeks to hire 1,500 graduates a year, the larger agencies may aim for a dozen.

As a result there is a huge skills shortage. Top-class graduates now see management consultancy as sexier than advertising and there is a high dropout rate in the lower echelons of ad agencies. That is because the reality of the job is at odds with its glamorous image. Young people in ad agencies can be glorified clerks for years, not allowed near senior clients and denied the opportunity to approach difficult strategic issues. This situation contrasts badly with law, accountancy and consultancy (especially once lower starting salaries are taken into account). It will surely continue until agencies restructure the way they are remunerated, putting a greater emphasis on being paid for their *thinking* rather than the production of advertising.


Golden days: the Stella Artois campaign was a great success

Although few outside the business will shed a tear, advertising no longer appears to be fun. The figures tend to support this: although adspend in 1997 was up 9 per cent, agency gross income grew by just 3 per cent. Margins are being squeezed, which stretches resources.

Then there is the industry's desire to be taken more seriously because it is worried about consultancies stealing its business. Conscious of its flighty image, advertising has tried hard to appear more worthy in the Nineties. Unfortunately, this has translated to the ads themselves — the area which least needs change. An over-reliance on consumer research, an over-bureaucratic approval procedure and a need to create work that crosses international boundaries create a blander end product.

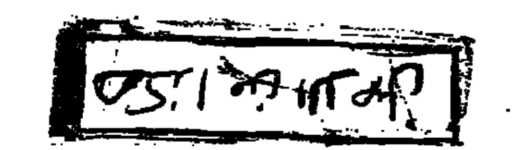
Is it all as gloomy as I've made it out to be? Not really. Ad agencies are still luxurious and exhilarating environments compared with most. And there is a danger of falling into rose-tinted reminiscences about the "good old days".

Advertising sorely needed a dose of realism. It still needs to demonstrate its effectiveness; agencies need to persuade clients of their value not their cost. Campaigns such as "fcuk", One 2 One and Walkers continue to transform the fortunes of their client companies. As for Kirby — well, who hasn't wanted to give up work and go travelling? Good luck to him.

But perhaps his lament is less symptomatic of a general malaise and more indicative of his own changed status from golden boy at a sexy Knightsbridge agency to mid-ranking, soon-to-be middle-aged executive at a more pragmatic Paddington one.

Put that way, I'd rather be on a beach in Thailand, too.

● *Stefano Hatfield is Editor of* Campaign



EDUCATION



Choosing a perfect school

Good primary education does not depend solely on results, says **Fred Redwood**

Parents who are choosing a primary school for their children will be particularly interested in the national test results to be published in *The Times* on Tuesday. The tables are easy to understand: just keep Level 4 in mind as the expected level for children of 11.

However, it would be unwise for parents to opt automatically for the school with the highest percentage of pupils gaining Level 4 or above. At the primary stage, children often learn as many basic skills at home as they do at school. Consequently, a school with excellent results in literacy, for example, may harbour some uninspiring teachers nonetheless.

It should also be noted that there has been much criticism of results at the higher key stages: it is quite likely that Tuesday's results will reveal similar anomalies.

So how should parents go about finding a good primary school? A fundamental rule is to visit each school during a normal working day.



Five-year-olds Cathie Blackman, left, and Kishma Crabbe in a reception class at Wandle Primary School in Wandsworth, South London

Most schools now hold open evenings, which feature displays of work by their pupils. Attending these functions may be interesting but such staged events should be treated with the scepticism with which you would approach any other promotional activity.

To gain a realistic picture of a school's strengths and weaknesses you need to witness normal lessons. Go about arranging a date but remember, on the day, to consider how much status is being afforded your visit. Be wary if you are rushed through the school in half an hour with time only for a cursory glance at lessons in progress.

Be aware of the learning environment. Children work better in pleasant surroundings and they receive encouragement when they see their work displayed on the walls. Ask about the layout of each classroom. Are there helpful signposts indicating where everything is kept? There should be.

Do not, however, assume that colourful collages are the sole indication of a talented teacher — a far better pointer is the general atmosphere during lessons.

Parents should consider whether the teacher is clearly in charge, even if groups of students are working on their own initiative. That doesn't mean the teacher should be a Joyce Grenfell soundalike — quiet teachers are often the best — but effective primary school teaching depends on being able to keep firm control of the class. Satisfy yourself that this is taking place.

Talk to the children about their work. Ask them what they are doing, why they are doing it and what they ultimately hope to achieve. Children respond to challenges so the teacher should have set every child a target at the beginning of each exercise. Alarm bells should start ringing if there are groups of bored children, half-heartedly ploughing through worksheets or projects.

Ask to see a random sample of pupils' work and pay careful attention to the teacher's comments. If they are clear and helpful in tone then it is fair to assume that the children are being encouraged to do their best. A curt "Level 3, you can do better" means very little and suggests that the teacher may be casual or even uncaring.

Finally, on the subject of written work, note that it is very important that children take pride in the presentation of their work.

Look for storage facilities which keep paper and books uncrumpled and safe. If carefully prepared drawings or writing assignments are dumped on the shelves of a cupboard, then it won't be long before it gets tatty and children lose interest.

Another consideration is the grouping of pupils. Having too few children in each year group makes it impossible for many schools to stream at the primary stage. But this does not mean that grouping by ability is impossible. It is now generally accepted that children should be working at levels appropriate to their ability — and preferably with children of a similar ability to themselves. It's quite likely that the groups will change for different subjects: for art, drama and games, groups may deliberately be made up of mixed-ability pupils.

But do beware of teachers who have a broad policy of grouping the more motivated children with the more disruptive ones. Children go to school to learn, not to act as mentors for classmates with behavioural problems.

Parents often say that they don't know what to ask teachers when they visit a school. That is understandable since education has created such a specialised language. However, a question about Literacy Hour would be pertinent. Most primary schools believe that this innovation was thrust upon them too abruptly, allowing insufficient time to make it effective. This is a fair comment but the good schools have now devised imaginative ways of making the idea work and they see it as a worthwhile part of the school day. Therefore be wary of the teacher who rants about the utter impossibility of using the Literacy Hour beneficially.

Ask whether the school has a policy on bullying — it should. Under-achieving boys is another important issue and ask what the school does to encourage boys to read.

With daughters in mind, ask if girls are being encouraged in traditionally male-dominated subjects such as information technology. There are differing views on these subjects but the important point is that the teacher you are questioning should be able to explain the school's stance.

A final piece of advice is to take a step back and imagine your child attending the school in question. Would he or she be stimulated by the teachers and pupils? Are the other children too boisterous? Would the regime be too oppressive or too casual? Would there be sufficient emphasis on arts subjects? Is sport taken seriously? Will there be enough input from information technology experts?

Parents know their children best. Only they will be able to calculate the answers to these questions. It is up to them to judge as they see fit.

Why the Bacc is better than A levels

John O'Leary

Ever since A levels were declared the "gold standard" of British education, ministers have tampered with them at their peril. No government wants to be accused of dumbing down, and Labour is particularly sensitive to the charge.

Baroness Blackstone is due to outline the latest proposals to broaden the sixth-form curriculum next month, and already the flak is flying. Winchester College was said this week to be considering switching to the International Baccalaureate (IB) if the move to modular courses went too far.

David Blunkett has guaranteed that a traditionally examined course will be maintained in every A-level subject. But schools such as Winchester wonder how long that line will be held if the popularity of modular courses continues to grow. The college suspects that the modular route, with retakes if things go wrong, will soon become the norm.

Yet it is far from certain that modular courses will prove an advantage in arts subjects. In English and history, for example, a student's grasp of the subject and an ability to marshal arguments is invariably stronger at the end of the course than at the time when the first modules would be examined. Similarly, in foreign languages, fluency takes time.

Doubters will take some convincing that the new, broader A levels with five subjects in the lower sixth and modules all round are compatible with the maintenance of the gold standard, however, especially if the pass rate keeps on climbing. The IB's many admirers will be hoping that some top schools do react by making the switch from A levels. Although only 34 British schools and colleges offer the Baccalaureate, there are many — and I am one of them — who consider it a better qualification than A levels for an academic sixth form. Students take six subjects, three to a higher level, and are expected to take a course in the theory of knowledge.

Many of the 200 schools that have looked into the possibility of offering the IB have found it too costly in resources and staff time. But the gap with A level will close to some extent when the new system arrives, and schools looking for a challenge in the sixth form may think again.

At present, head teachers and governors worry that parents would be nervous of anything without the A-level stamp of authority. But universities are warming to the IB in recognition of the high standards expected across a broad range of subjects. The addition of a school such as Winchester to the IB fold is just what the qualification needs to take off in Britain.

Shakespeare's problem

The film about literature's greatest playwright will influence and mislead those studying his work, says **Susan Elkin**

As students they are fascinated by Gwyneth Paltrow, have heard about the romantic sex and cherish a naive notion that it will boost their Shakespeare revision.

Indeed, the plot of the movie *Shakespeare in Love* is laced with literary allusions: I loved the scene when Will marched into a tavern and demanded "Give me to drink mandragora" after his own Cleopatra. Then there is the sending-up of Zeffirelli excesses in the ballroom scene of his 1968 film *Romeo and Juliet*. And Tom Stoppard's agility in weaving in dialogue from his *Travesties* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.

But what will this slick nonsense do to students' largely literalist, and usually narrowly focused, perceptions? Will Stoppard's version of Shakespeare hit GCSE papers this summer? Or will students of 16 distinguish between the literary romp and what we know of Shakespeare's life and the writing of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night* (which is very little)?

Will the chronology mislead them? Of course, Shakespeare did not write *Twelfth Night* immediately after *Romeo and Juliet*, or reinvent his Juliet as Viola, as the film suggests. Most scholars agree that *Romeo and Juliet* (written by a mature man of 30, over halfway through his life, not by a mooning 22-year-old) and *Twelfth Night* were at least five years apart, with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Henry IV* Parts I and II, among others, coming in between.



UNIVERSAL

As you like it: Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes in *Shakespeare in Love*

Teachers of English must drum into their students that one goes to Shakespeare for poetry, ideas, action, characterisation, laughter and tears — but not for a factual account of English or Roman history, which, like many a playwright since, he distorts for his own dramatic purposes. The same applies to *Shakespeare in Love*, although teenagers might usefully grasp the point that women were precluded from acting on the Elizabethan stage.

Will students emerge from the cinema with the mistaken idea that Queen Elizabeth actually frequented London's filthy and potentially plague-ridden theatres with the masses? Or that 16th-century audiences were quietly attentive to the play? Or that a young gentlewoman would have been unsupervised enough to conduct an affair of the heart (and body) as Viola does in the film?

The trouble is that young audiences are inclined to believe unquestioningly what they are shown. Visual images are so much more powerful than anything said by a teacher or read in a book. From an Eng Lit point of view, *Shakespeare in Love* should probably come with a strong health warning. One way round this problem, since pupils will be influenced by it anyway, would be for English and Media Studies classes to confront the film head-on by studying it closely, unpicking the humour, the cross-references, the anachronisms and its contemporary relevance.

A GCSE student who had been led to an understanding of how and why such a film succeeds so well as popular entertainment today would be on the way to an educated frame of mind.

● *Susan Elkin is a teacher of secondary English.*

Contributory negligence sum

Platform Home Loans Ltd v Oyston Shipways Ltd and Others

Before Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Cooke of Thorndon, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough and Lord Millett

[Speeches February 18]

Where a mortgage lender which sued surveyors for negligently overvaluing property accepted as security for a mortgage loan was found to be liable for a percentage of the loss arising then, on the application of section 1(1) of the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945, the percentage reduction for contributory negligence should be applied to the lender's basic loss as calculated before making any further deduction from the damages recoverable pursuant to the principle laid down in *Banque Bruxelles Lambert SA v Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd* ([1997] AC 191).

The House of Lords so held (Lord Cooke dissenting) in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Platform Home Loans Ltd, against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Morritt, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Potter) (*The Times* January 15, 1998; [1998] Ch 466) allowing an appeal by the first defendant, Oyston Shipways Ltd (trading as Shipways), a firm of surveyors, the second defendant, Bernard Thorpe (a former firm), and the third and fourth defendants, David Browning Allen and Stephen John Kitchen, from a decision of Mr Justice Jacob in the plaintiff's action for damages in negligence against the defendants.

Section 1 of the 1945 Act provides:

"Where any person suffers damage as the result partly of his own fault and partly of the fault of any other person or persons, a claim in respect of that damage shall not be defeated by reason of the fault of the person suffering the damage, but the damages recoverable in respect thereof shall be reduced to such an extent as the court thinks just and equitable having regard to the claimant's share in the responsibility for the damage..."

Mr Nicholas Patten, QC and Mr Andrew P. D. Walker for the plaintiff; Mr Simon Berry, QC and Mr Timothy Harry for the first and the second, third and fourth defendants.

LORD HOBHOUSE said that the question raised by the appeal concerned the application of section 1(1) of the 1945 Act to cases of professional negligence in the context of the principles laid down by the House of Lords in *Banque Bruxelles Lambert SA v Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd* and *Nykredit Mortgage Bank plc v Edward Erdman Group Ltd (No 2)* ([1997] 1 WLR 1627). The first step was to establish what was the basic loss of the lender. The second step was to see whether the basic loss exceeded the amount of the overvaluation and, if it did, the lender's right of recovery from the valuer was limited to the extent of the overvaluation.

The issue was whether the reduction in the plaintiffs damages on account of their contributory negligence should have been applied to the plaintiffs basic loss or to their loss as limited by the application of the *Banque Bruxelles* principle: the second step above.

It would be appreciated that in all cases where the Banque Bruxelles principle was applicable because the plaintiffs' basic loss exceeded the amount of the defendants' overvaluation the point was not academic and might have substantial financial consequences.

In the instant case the judge found that there was a 20 per cent contributory negligence but held that it did not affect the outcome of the *Banque Bruxelles* calculation.

The Court of Appeal held that the *Banque Bruxelles* calculation had to be done first and the plaintiffs recoverable damages then be reduced by a further 20 per cent.

The figure of £611,748 was found to represent the plaintiffs basic loss through having entered into the transaction. The overvaluation of the property by the defendants was found to be £500,000.

Applying the *Banque Bruxelles* principle the plaintiffs' recoverable damages fell to be reduced to £500,000.

The basic loss less 20 per cent was £489,398, thst is, less than £500,000). That was the figure which the judge awarded. But £500,000 less 20 per cent was £400,000. The Court of Appeal held that the plaintiffs' damages should be reduced pursuant to the 1945 Act to £400,000.

The *Banque Bruxelles* principle was not derived from any application of mathematics. The loss suffered by a lender in the event of a market fall might not be directly proportionate or equivalent to the original overvaluation.

The principle was essentially a legal rule which was applied in a robust way without the need for fine tuning or a detailed investigation of causation.

The other feature of the *Banque Bruxelles* litigation to which attention should be drawn was the fact that the question of contributory negligence was raised by the facts of one of the cases involved but was not thought to give rise to any special problem or to the legal issues which had been debated in the instant case.

The totality of the plaintiffs' loss in the instant case was partly caused by the defendants' fault and therefore the case came within the scope of section 1(1) of the 1945 Act.

It was then necessary to consider the third part of the statutory provision: which required the court to form a view as to what it thought was just and equitable having regard to the plaintiffs' share in the responsibility for the damage and to reduce the plaintiffs' recoverable damages accordingly.

It was at that point that the court had to ask itself whether, and if so to what extent, a further reduction in the plaintiffs' basic loss was to be made beyond that already required by the application of the *Banque Bruxelles* principle.

Was it just and equitable that plaintiffs who had suffered damage in the sum of £12,000 partly as a result of the defendants' fault and partly as the result of their own should have their recoverable damages reduced below the sum of £500,000?

The answer, in accordance with the finding of contributory negligence, was that there should be a further reduction in the plaintiffs' recoverable damages.

If the overvaluation had been of the order of £615,000 the *Banque Bruxelles* principle would have been irrelevant but the plaintiffs' recoverable damages would nevertheless have fallen to be reduced by 20 per cent so as to arrive at the figure of £489,000. The plaintiffs should not recover more than that figure under the 1945 Act.

The next question was: did it make any difference that the basic loss exceeded the amount of the overvaluation?

The answer, on the facts of the case, was that it did not. It was not just and equitable to make any further reduction. The resultant figure was within the scope of the duty of care which the judge had found that the defendants had breached.

It was not just and equitable that the plaintiffs' recoverable damages be reduced to £400,000 on account of contributory negligence which was already fully taken into account by reducing them to £489,000.

It was easy to demonstrate that the decision of the Court of Appeal could give rise to unacceptable results. It could also be said that their decision departed from the approach of Lord Hoffmann adopted by the House in the *Banque Bruxelles* and *Nykredit* cases.

The decision of the Court of Appeal in the instant case in effect made the same deduction twice over.

The *Banque Bruxelles* principle already involved an exercise of attribution in relation to the extent of the defendants' legal responsibility to the plaintiffs' basic loss.

That fact had to be taken into account in deciding what further, if any, reduction in the plaintiffs' recoverable damages was just and equitable.

Just as Lord Hoffmann had formulated a general principle which was easy of application in all save exceptional cases, so also would the right answer on the application of section 1(1) be arrived at by applying the traditional percentage reduction to the lender's basic loss before making any further deduction on account of the *Banque Bruxelles* principle.

His Lordship stressed that these were not rules of thumb. They did not aspire to mathematical precision nor was it desirable that any attempt be made in the ordinary run of cases to make them mathematically precise since the evidence would not normally be sufficient to justify such precision.

The task of the court was to make a just and equitable assessment.

Lord Millett delivered a concurring speech. Lord Lloyd and Lord Hope agreed and Lord Cooke delivered a dissenting speech.

Solicitors: Rosling King; Williams Davies Meltzer and Dibb Lupton Alsop, Birmingham.

Expert evidence

Regina v Fitzpatrick (Gerald)

Although it was important that a judge should make clear to a jury that they were not bound by an expert witness's opinion, it did not follow that that principle should be elevated into an inflexible requirement.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Schiemann, Mr Justice Hughes and Judge Stephens, QC) so held on February 11 in dismissing an appeal by Gerald Fitzpatrick against his conviction in February 1998 at Canterbury Crown Court (Mr Recorder Tillett, QC and a jury) for an offence of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition or restriction on the importation of a Class B drug, cannabis, for which he was sentenced to six years imprisonment.

MR JUSTICE HUGHES, giving the judgment of the court, said that attention had been drawn to observations as to the status of expert evidence in *R v Stockwell* ((1993) 97 Cr App R 260, 266).

Their Lordships agreed that it was important so to direct the jury but it did not need to be in any particular way and it was not automatically a good ground of appeal if that particular form of words was not slavishly followed.

Limit to vicarious liability

Generale Bank Nederland NV (formerly Credit Lyonnais Bank Nederland NV) v Export Credits Guarantee Department

Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Steyn, Lord Clyde and Lord Millett

[Speeches February 18]

An employer was not vicariously liable where an employee had done acts in the course of his employment which did not in themselves amount to a tort and only became so because they had been done to assist fraudulent acts by another person which, had they been done by the employee, would have been outside the course of his employment. Before there could be vicarious liability, all the features of the wrong which were necessary to make the employee liable had to have occurred in the course of his employment.

There was not a separate tort of procuring another to commit a tort such as would make the employee's conduct itself an actionable tort for which the employer would be liable.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by Generale Bank Nederland NV, formerly Credit Lyonnais Bank Nederland NV, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Thorpe) (*The Times* August 4, 1997; [1998] 1 Lloyd's Rep 19) upholding Mr Justice Longmore's dismissal ([1996] 1 Lloyd's Rep 200) of the bank's claim against the Export Credits Guarantee Department for damages in tort for losses due to the fraud of a Roland Chong, in which an employee of the department, Mr Pillai, was involved.

Mr Chong, aware that banks would purchase bills of exchange drawn by an exporter on foreign buyers against a guarantee from the department that the foreign buyer would pay for the goods in due course according to the contract of sale, sold the bank bills of exchange with forged buyer acceptances in relation to fictitious export contracts, supported by guarantees issued by the department which the employee had authorised.

Although the employee had knowledge of the scheme to defraud the bank, his issue of the guarantees was not in itself unlawful and it would not have been within his employment to do the acts by which the bank was deceived.

Mr Chong having disappeared, and the employee having died, the bank had sued the department in contract, claiming that the guarantees secured payment of the bills bought by the bank, and in tort, claiming that the department was vicariously liable for the acts of the employee in underwriting the guarantees.

The claim in contract was no longer pursued.

Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Richard Slade for the bank; Mr Gordon Pollock, QC, Mr Jonathan Hirst, QC and Mr Graham Dunning for the department.

LORD WOOLF said that the bank would have had no difficulty in succeeding in an action against Mr Chong or Mr Pillai.

There was no dispute that they would have been liable jointly and severally to the bank for deceit. The problem of the bank was establishing the vicarious liability of the department. It had two difficulties.

First, the facts on which the liability of Mr Chong and Mr Pillai to the bank for deceit were based were not confined to a single act but consisted of a course of conduct and only part of the conduct had been in the course of Mr Pillai's employment, namely the issue of the guarantees. However, the issue of a guarantee by itself would have had no adverse consequence for the bank.

Second, the further conduct needed to constitute the tort of deceit which was practised on the bank was primarily carried out not by Mr Pillai but Mr Chong. Mr Chong never had the authority to act on behalf of the department although Mr Pillai was jointly responsible for Mr Chong's conduct.

To meet those difficulties Mr Sumption had advanced two alternative arguments.

The first was that where an employee assisted in the violation by another of an individual's rights pursuant to a common design to that end, the employee incurred liability as a joint tortfeasor and his employer incurred vicarious liability for the violation if the assistance by the employee was in the course of his employment.

That, it was argued, was because the breach of duty which gave rise to the joint liability was to be rationalised as a duty not to assist in that violation pursuant to that design. So if the acts which constituted the assistance were done within the course of employment, then in accord with the ordinary principles on which vicarious liability arose, that was sufficient to make the employer liable.

His Lordship said that the principle on which vicarious liability depended was that the wrong of the servant or agent for which the master or principal was liable was one committed, in the case of a servant, in the course of his employment and, in the case of an agent, in the course of his authority.

It was fundamental to the whole approach to vicarious liability that an employer or principal should not be liable for acts of the servant or agent which were not performed within that limitation.

The conduct for which the servant was responsible had to constitute an actionable tort and to make the employer responsible for that tort the conduct necessary to establish the employee's liability had to have occurred within the course of the employment. If the tort was committed jointly, then it was conduct which was within the course of the employment sufficient to constitute the tort, irrespective of which tortfeasor performed the acts, which was necessary. As both tortfeasors were responsible for the tortious conduct as a whole in the case of joint torts it was not necessary to distinguish between the actions of different tortfeasors.

For vicarious liability what was critical, as long as one of the joint tortfeasors was an employee, was that the combined conduct of both tortfeasors was sufficient to constitute a tort in the course of the employee's conduct.

The answer to Mr Sumption's first argument was that before there could be vicarious liability, all the features of the wrong which were necessary to make the employee liable had to have occurred in the course of the employment. Otherwise there was no liability.

One could not combine the actions of Mr Pillai in the course of his employment with actions of Mr Chong, which if done by Mr Pillai would have been outside the course of his employment, and say that the department was vicariously liable.

Mr Sumption's second argument was that the bank was entitled to succeed because Mr Pillai's own acts of assistance were themselves tortious because they were carried out with the intention of bringing about a violation of the bank's rights. If correct, the department would be vicariously liable for that tort.

It was accepted by Mr Sumption that that involved a development or at least a clarification of the law, but he submitted that it was based on well established principles.

He argued, in particular, that there was no justification for treating the torts of procuring breaches of contract or statutory duty as self-contained islands of law as opposed to illustrations of a more general principle.

The foundation of his argument was *Lumley v Gye* ((1853) 2 E & B 216, 232), the case where an action was brought for maliciously procuring a singer to break her contract by not performing at the plaintiff's theatre.

Mr Justice Erle had said that "the procurement of the violation of a right is a cause of action in all instances where the violation is an actionable wrong..."

That statement was capable of being treated as saying no more than that if you procured the commission of an actionable wrong by another then you were liable for that actionable wrong. The responsibility for the actionable wrong was a form of secondary liability.

That would not assist because, as already stated, the department could not be vicariously liable for a wrong which was not performed in the course of Mr Pillai's employment.

The statement was an insecure foundation for what was being sought here: the establishment of a new stand alone tort committed by Mr Pillai in the course of his employment.

Mr Pollock had relied on a short passage from a judgment of Mr Justice Diplock in *Smith v Pywell* (*The Times* April 29, 1959): "There was no separate tort of procuring a third person to commit a tort, but the procurer was a joint tortfeasor with the person who actually committed it."

He had also relied, inter alia, on *CBS Songs Ltd v Amstrad Consumer Electronics plc* ([1988] AC 1013, 1058) where Lord Templeman strongly suggested that there was little scope for the creation of such a tort.

The tort on which Mr Sumption sought to rely was unsupported by authority. The authority which did exist strongly suggested that there was no such tort.

The only purpose for establishing its existance was to make the department vcariously liable for Mr Pillai's conduct. That was not a justification for the recognition of the new tort.

Direct liability for conduct which would be caught by the new tort existed independently of that tort on the well established grounds for making a secondary tortfeasor jointly and severally liable with a principal tortfeasor.

Lord Slynn, Lord Steyn, Lord Clyde and Lord Millett agreed.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Clyde & Co.

Corrections

In *In re L (a Minor) (Section 37 direction)* (*The Times* February 11) the first paragraph should have read:

"The court should not order the local authority to make an investigation pursuant to section 37 of the Children Act 1989 unless it appeared that it might be appropriate to make a public law order."

That should have been repeated in the final paragraph with *In re C E (Section 37 direction)* ([1995] 1 FLR 26) supporting the statement.

In *Hall v Kingston upon Hull City Council; Ireland v Birmingham City Council, Baker v Same* (*The Times* February 9) the appellants' solicitors were: Sydney Mitchell, Birmingham for Hall; Harfield Pickering, Redditch for Ireland; Roskell Davies & Co, Brownhills for Baker.

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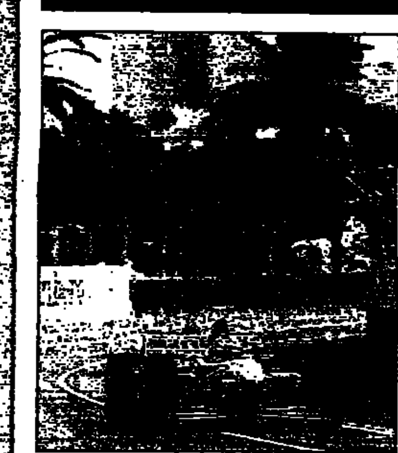
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CONSTRUCTORS ***Finishing position (first car only):*** 1st 30 points; 2nd 25; 3rd 24; 4th 23; 5th 22; 6th 21; 7th 20; 8th 19; 9th 18; 10th 17; 11th 16; 12th 15; 13th 14; 14th 13; 15th 12; 16th 11; 17th 10; 18th 9; 19th 8; 20th 7. ***Penalty points:*** Any incident resulting in a car being made to start from the back of the grid or pit lane -10 points. Any incident resulting in elimination during a race -10 points. Not starting after qualifying for a race -10 points. Speeding in pit lane -5 points

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1999 Formula One championship, the first of which is the Brazilian Grand Prix. ***Correctly predicting winning driver:*** 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

Damon Hill


David Coulthard


Mika Hakkinen



Michael Schumacher

Eddie Irvine

DRIVERS

GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 Mika Hakkinen	07 Eddie Irvine	12 Ralf Schumacher	18 Jarno Trulli
02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	13 Heinz-Harald Frentzen	19 Rubens Barrichello
03 Damon Hill	09 Giancarlo Fisichella	14 Alexander Wurz	20 Pedro Diniz
04 David Coulthard	10 Jean Alesi	15 Mika Salo	21 Pedro de la Rosa
05 Alessandro Zanardi	11 Johnny Herbert	16 Ricardo Zonta	22 Norberto Fontana*
06 Jacques Villeneuve		17 Marc Gene	*Subject to confirmation*

CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C	GROUP D
23 McLaren	29 Arrows
24 Ferrari	30 BAR
25 Williams	31 Stewart
26 Jordan	32 Prost
27 Benetton	33 Minardi
28 Sauber	

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Follow the instructions on the line and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (maximum 16 characters), together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number (please note, you need to speak these details). You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry. You can enter a team at any time until noon on Thursday, March 4, 1999 to qualify for the start of the Australian Grand Prix

TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply, the first of these is the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Give your Fantasy Formula One team name (maximum 16 characters), together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number. Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland should enclose a sterling cheque for £3 or provide their credit-card details. The entry fee for readers resident outside the UK or Republic of Ireland is £15. Post the form to: The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton LU7 1ZZ. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry.

For your Fantasy Formula One team to start scoring points at the Australian GP, which takes place in Melbourne on Sunday, March 7, postal entries must be received by first post on Wednesday, March 3, 1999. Entries received after this date will only score points for any remaining grands prix.

THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

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GROUP A AND GROUP B DRIVERS
1st 2nd 3rd

GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS

Team Name (maximum of 16 characters) ....

I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game.

Signature .... Date ....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .... Initials .... Age ....
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE
Surname ....
Address ....
Postcode .... Day tel ....

Credit Card Payment Card number:

Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐

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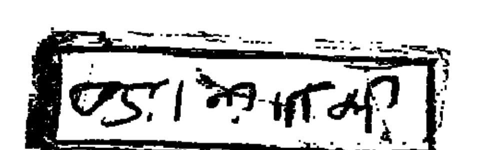
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1 Race results will be taken as those standing at midnight on the Sunday of each grand prix. Subsequent changes affecting those results, as decreed by the FIA, will be applied to Fantasy Formula One. 2 Changes of circumstances: if a driver is replaced for any reason you will be deemed to have chosen the new driver; if a driver transfers to another team you will keep that driver as your selection. 3 New drivers become available for transfer as and when they become participants in the Formula One season. 4 In the event of more than one entrant having the same score at the end of the competition a tie break will come into effect to decide the overall prize-winner. 5 In the event of more than one entrant having the same score for an individual race prize, the winner will be selected at random 6 The computerised record of your entry will be considered to be the entry. Indecipherable, inaudible or incomplete applications will be null and void and no refund will be made. 7 Prizes will only be awarded to teams which comprise three drivers from Group A, three drivers from Group B, three constructors from Group C and three constructors from Group D. 8 There is no limit to the number of teams a person may enter 9 Telephone entries and transfers are made by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephones only. Entries should take about seven minutes and cost 60p per min Calls from payphones cost approximately double. 10 Promotional and explanatory copy relating to the game forms part of the terms and conditions for participation. 11 Entrants must be 18 or over. 12 The prize of a TVR Cerbera 4.2 does not include insurance. In the event of the winner being resident outside the UK, he/she will be responsible for all costs associated with arranging delivery from the UK. 13 Normal TNL competition rules apply and the decisions of the editors are final 14 Promoter: News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XY



Vaughan ensures victory for England A

By Thrasy Petropoulos and John Stern

THE England A team held their nerve to beat Zimbabwe A by four wickets in the second limited-overs match in Harare yesterday and so ensured victory in the three-match series. The win lacked the drama of Bulawayo, where England won by a single wicket in the last over, but a revised target of 151 in 47 overs was a challenging one nonetheless and, but for a measured innings of 41 not out from Michael Vaughan, the captain, and a plucky contribution from Chris Read, it might have been Zimbabwe celebrating.

Vikram Solanki appeared to be hurrying England to victory, but, having reached 29 from 25 balls, he drove loosely at Gary Brent and was bowled. When Paul Franks followed shortly afterwards, 40 runs were still needed with four wickets standing.

Andy Blignaut, whose first eight overs had brought him two wickets for 32 runs, was then recalled, but his next two cost him 24.

The bowlers then put in a disciplined performance to restrict Zimbabwe to 154 with Franks, a latecomer to the tour as replacement for Paul Hutchison, taking four for 34. More impressive, though, was Steve Harmison, who worked up a fine pace and conceded only 13 runs off the bat in ten overs.

Ian Bell, 16, who was close to selection for the Warwickshire first XI towards the end of last summer, made 115 of the England Under-19 team's 272 for seven on the opening day of the third four-day international against New Zealand Under-19 in Alexandra.

Despite a slow outfield, Bell needed only 142 balls for his century. He showed remarkable concentration in an innings flawed only by the timing and manner of his dismissal. With the new ball only one over away, he came down the pitch to Bruce Martin, the left-arm spinner, and was stumped for 115.

Marc Symington held England together towards the close and was unbeaten 39 after almost three hours.

Scoreboards, page 49

CRICKET: SRINATH BRINGS ABOUT DRAMATIC COLLAPSE TO KEEP INDIA IN CONTENTION

Superb Saeed stands alone

From Richard Hobson in Calcutta

CALCUTTA (third day of five): India, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 275 runs to beat Pakistan

SAEED ANWAR set himself high goals on his arrival in India by boasting that his primary target for the month ahead was to score a triple-century. While not reaching that landmark yesterday, he might well have produced the single individual performance that will swing the first game of the Asian Test Championship in Pakistan's favour.

From inauspicious beginnings, when his feet seemed to be cast in lead, Saeed steadied himself, expanded his range and finally reached a point where he was the complete master of the India attack. Even Javagal Srinath, who returned the best figures of his Test career — eight for 86 — was powerless to contain the left-hander at the height of his destructive powers.

Had the lower order offered better support then Saeed would surely have recorded a maiden double hundred and Pakistan put the game well beyond the reach of opponents, who, through lack of dynamic leadership, allowed things to drift out of control in the period just before and after tea. Even as it is, the target of 279 will prove to be a severe challenge with the off spin of Saqlain Mushtaq likely to play a significant role today.

Only once have India scored as many to win in the fourth innings. What Mohammad Azharuddin, the captain, must have thought as he watched Saeed at work is easy to imagine. He dropped the opening batsman on Wednesday evening on two, potentially the most expensive chance to be squandered by an India fielder since Kiran More missed Graham Gooch at Lord's nine years ago. Gooch gave his next chance on 333.

Saeed's unbeaten 188 from 259 balls represented almost 60 per cent of the total of 316. There are few batsmen who could have matched the timing and precision of his cutting backward of square or his driving through mid-wicket. He batted for 454 minutes and hit a six and 23 fours, but, as he returned to a standing ovation from another huge crowd, his features spoke of frustration rather than joy, reflecting his feelings at the lack of support that had been accorded him.

Both here and in the earlier two-match series, the initiative has been squandered time and again, levels of charity being displayed that must be the envy of the Mother Teresa Mission that is less than a mile away.

Srinath and Prasad had been rendered ineffective in the first session, the period in which the pace bowlers wreaked havoc on the first day, but, from 262 for three, at which point Yousuf Youhana was matching Saeed stroke for stroke, Pakistan lost their last seven wickets for 54 runs.

Ambition trumped good sense when Yousuf attempted to hook Srinath and top-edged to long leg after making 56. Shahid Afridi, vulnerable against the short ball, could only balloon the next delivery to Dravid at second slip as he tried to take evasive action and Srinath came within two inches of completing a hat-trick when Salim Malik edged him just short of slip.

To his utter discredit, Ganguly continued to appeal for a catch that he clearly held on the half-volley beyond the point at which it might be excused as a heat of the moment reaction. Although the third umpire adjudicated correctly, this kind of behaviour breeds mistrust between teams who do not have a history of friendship, however successful the last four weeks. As a native Bengali, too, Ganguly should know that the crowd here is, potentially, perhaps the most volatile in the world.

An ineffectual push against Srinath soon accounted for Salim, in any case, and Moin offered a thin nick to Mongia as he tried to hook a rare, but effective Prasad bouncer. Azhar Mahmood completed a pair when he played down the wrong line before Wasim Akram, visibly tense, followed a wide ball from Srinath.

Srinath's yorker that accounted for Shoaib Akhtar to end the innings was a worthy conclusion to a vibrant spell of six for 30 in 9.3 overs. Saeed thus became the third Pakistan batsman after Nazar Mohammad and Mudassar Nazar, father and son, to carry his bat through an innings, but there was no evidence of celebration back at the team hotel last night. That may follow today.



ARKO DATTA

Saeed, the third Pakistan opener to carry his bat in Test cricket, swings Singh for six

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.uk.cricket.org/

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First Innings 185 (Moin Khan 70; J Srinath 5 for 46).

Second Innings

Saeed Anwar not out	188
Wajahatullah Wasti c Mongia b Srinath	9
Saqlain Mushtaq c Mongia b Srinath	21
Ijaz Ahmed c Mongia b Srinath	11
Yousuf Youhana c Dravid b Srinath	56
Shahid Afridi c Laxman b Srinath	0
Salim Malik lbw b Srinath	9
† Moin Khan c Mongia b Prasad	8
Azhar Mahmood lbw b Srinath	0
*Wasim Akram c Mongia b Srinath	1
Shoaib Akhtar b Srinath	1
Extras (lb 3, w 5, nb 4)	12
Total	316

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-94, 3-148, 4-262, 5-262, 6-284, 7-301, 8-302, 9-304.

BOWLING: Srinath 27-6-86-8; Prasad 24-5-61-1; Kumble 27-4-91-0; Singh 16-1-56-1; Laxman 2-0-4-0; Ramesh 1-0-5-0; Tendulkar 2-0-10-0.

INDIA: First Innings 223 (S Ramesh 79; Shoaib Akhtar 4 for 71).

Second Innings

S Ramesh not out	4
V V S Laxman not out	0
Total (no wkt)	4

BOWLING: Shoaib Akhtar 0.5-0-4-0

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D L Orchard (South Africa).

Hickman lays foundation for more glory

Craig Lord on a swimmer training his thoughts on staying at the top

There is no fat on James Hickman, no luxuriance about him as he sits relaxed but tight in body and mind high up in the seats overlooking the swimming pool, like some big cat in the dry season surveying a distant African plain for the arrival of game.

The winter World Cup season is drawing to a close and Hickman is still tethered by the constraints of both the most intensive six-week training period of his career and a lack of good sport in his past few races before he defends his world short-course title in Hong Kong in April.

His easy winning ways in Glasgow last weekend and Malmö in midweek, the first two of five concluding European rounds of the World Cup, indicate a season of plenty ahead. This weekend in Paris, he will test himself one last time before Hong Kong, but he knows that his efforts will pale by comparison to his achievements in the French capital last year, when he set the world record of 1min 51.76sec when fully rested.

> ‘I can feel myself getting faster’

Unrested, he expects to be slower today. Yet Hickman is happy. "I've never had such an intense period of training," he said. "I came through it without getting over-tired, without getting ill. I came down off the heavy work just at the right time. We went right to the limits."

The "we" includes Terry Denison, the coach at Leeds, who was mentor to Adrian Moorhouse, the 1988 Olympic champion, and to whom Hickman turned just over a year ago. That move goes some way to explaining the swimmer's altered ego. After winning Commonwealth and European short-course titles last year, Hickman was manic, taken by the moment, on-message soundbites about lottery funding flowing thick and fast.

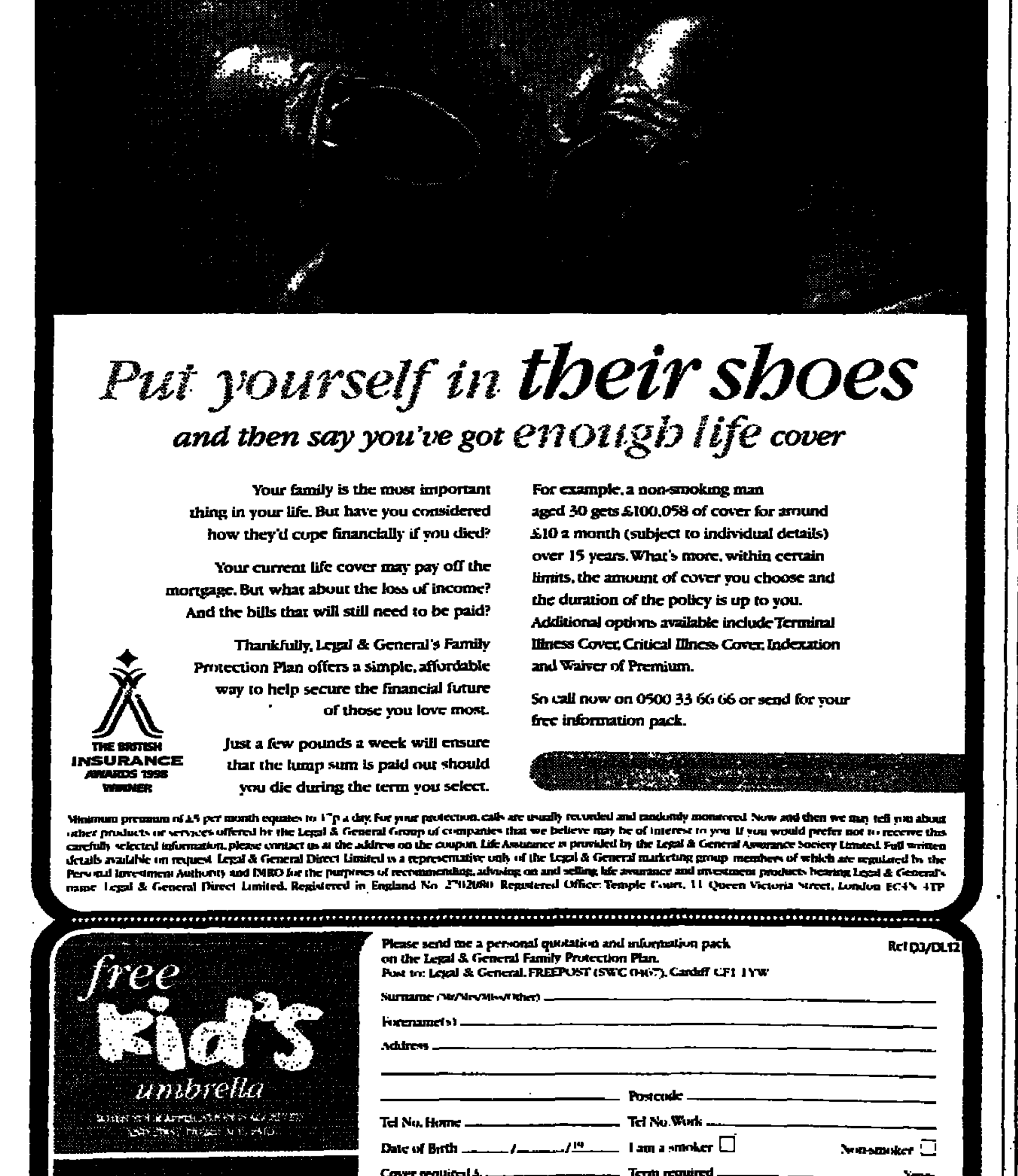
In Malmö, beyond the hype, Hickman is quiet, considered and measured; the brain behind the brawn comes across more sharply than it ever has. He is a man at ease with himself. His work ethic brings praise from Denison for Dave Calleja, the Stockport coach, who nurtured Hickman to Olympian and world short-course champion. "James owes almost everything he's got to Dave. It was the foundation that explains how James can do what he's doing now." Calleja's work, Denison says, has made Hickman "the most coachable swimmer I've ever had".

Guiding such a talent brings huge responsibility: "It's exciting to coach James, but there's the pressure of it, too — to know you have to get it right. No mistakes, for that one moment to be right [the Olympic final]. I know how fine the line can be." Moorhouse won by 0.01sec in 1988.

Now Hickman is successfully converting his skills to the long-course, Olympic pool. In the past six weeks, he has trained only in a 50-metre pool and endured a weights programme that has visibly filled out his chest.

Hickman will soon start his rest period. He all but salivates at the prospect: "I love it. I can feel myself getting faster and I start to get excited about the race. There's no feeling like it."

For a fleeting moment, here is the animal ready to give chase. Then he remembers patience, relaxes and settles back into sit-tight mode, the keeper of one thought: "I know I'm the best 'fly swimmer in the world and I aim to prove it."



RACING: SCHOOLING SESSIONS ASSIST FESTIVAL HOPES

Looks Like Trouble on best behaviour

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

THE growing trend among National Hunt trainers to seek the help of top eventing riders with reluctant jumpers paid handsome dividends at Sandown yesterday for two Cheltenham Festival aspirants.

Looks Like Trouble has lived up to his name when attempting to jump fences so Noel Chance, his trainer, sent him to Andrew Hoy, a member of the Australian three-day eventing team which won gold medals at the last two Olympics. Hoy did the trick and the Royal & SunAlliance Chase entrant was foot-perfect in taking the Reg Hopkins & Tony King Novices' Handicap Chase.

Half an hour later the plaudits were being handed out by Mark Pitman to Ginny Elliot, world three-day event champion in 1986 and who won Badminton three times. Pitman had not been happy with the hurdling of Ashley Park, a group three winner on the Flat, before his debut in the Telegraph Hill Novices' Hurdle and asked for her advice.

Elliot, who has been helping out several jump trainers this season, supervised an eve of racing schooling session. As a result, Ashley Park jumped like a seasoned handicapper to overcome Salamah, the favourite, who finished third.

Pitman said: "Trainers can teach horses to jump, but if you have one which needs help I am all in favour of calling in eventing people, who have specialist knowledge."


HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Looks Like Trouble puts in a fine leap at Sandown yesterday

The victory of Looks Like Trouble was particularly heartwarming for Chance. Two years ago he sent out Mr Mulligan to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup, but in a perverse way his hour of glory prompted a reverse in his fortunes.

Michael Worcester, owner of Mr Mulligan and the Lambourn yard from which Chance trains, found visiting the smaller tracks lost some of its appeal after enjoying the ultimate success in National Hunt racing — so he drastically reduced his string. Instead of having ten horses, he now has shares in just a couple.

All of which has left Chance with just 12 horses — most of whom do not like the soft ground which has prevailed this winter — and only three winners this season. However, he has not lost his sense of humour and when it was suggested the last couple of years had not been easy, he said: "It has not been easy for 25 years."

Looks Like Trouble had been owned by Worcester but Chance persuaded Tim Collins to buy him and Cheltenham is now a possibility. "He will be better next year. There is improvement in him."

Pitman paid 28,000 guineas for Ashley Park, a Sadler's Wells entire who won a Derby trial at Leopardstown in 1997 when trained by Charles O'Brien. That looks a bargain after yesterday's victory and he may run in the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

☐ The Faucets' jockeys' sponsorship scheme, which covers the Cheltenham and Aintree Festivals as well as Whitbread Gold Cup day, was boosted yesterday when the owners of Florida Pearl, favourite for the Gold Cup, gave permission for Richard Dunwoody to wear the Faucets' branding on his breeches in the big race.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Memsahib Ofesteem (3.35 Fakenham)

This improving mare, trained by Steve Gollings, was entered for races this week but runs here. The hint should be taken.

Next best: Dawn Leader (2.20 Sandown)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Sandown Park

Going: good, hurdle course good to soft in places

1.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Dark Romance** (Danny O'Sullivan, 7-1); 2, Mazileo (8-1); 3, Nordansk (5-1). Compass Pointer 9-2 jt-fav. 12 ran. 5l, 5l. Miss Z Davison. Tote: £9.70; £2.00, £3.30, £1.90. DF: £44.80. CSF: £50.97. Tricast: £275.32.

2.20 (3m 110yd ch) 1, **Looks Like Trouble** (M A Fitzgerald, 11-4 fav); 2, Act In Time (9-1); 3, Blowing Rock (3-1). 8 ran. 7l, 24l. Noel T Chance. Tote: £3.00; £1.10, £2.10, £2.00. DF: £16.70. CSF: £23.39. Tricast: £69.07.

2.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Ashley Park** (T J Murphy, 11-4); 2, Brown Lad (8-1); 3, Salamah (evens fav). 8 ran. 9l, 9l. M Pitman. Tote: £4.50; £1.80, £1.90, £1.00. DF: £20.40. CSF: £21.07.

3.25 (2m ch) 1, **Dantes Cavalier** (B Fenton, 7-2); 2, Dines (11-8 fav); 3, Big Matt (9-2). 4 ran. 10l, 4l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £3.70. DF: £3.60. CSF: £7.80.

3.55 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Around The Horn** (C Bonner, 9-2 jt-fav); 2, Broad Steane (6-1); 3, Marching Marquis (9-2 jt-fav). 15 ran. NR: Pant Llin. 2l, 1½l. Mrs D Grissell. Tote: £5.10; £1.50, £2.80, £2.90. DF: £28.50. CSF: £27.24.

4.30 (2m 6f hdle) 1, **Tempestuous Lady** (M A Fitzgerald, 7-1); 2, Damp Course (12-1); 3, Greycoat Boy (14-1); 4, Ezanak (5-1 jt-fav). Norlandic (5th) 5-1 jt-fav. 18 ran. 2l, 3½l. N Henderson. Tote: £7.40; £2.00, £1.80, £3.20, £1.70. DF: £234.30. CSF: £79.64. Tricast: £1,089.41.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £4,713.34 carried forward to Sandown today).

Placepot: £81.20. **Quadpot:** £29.00.

Taunton

Going: good to soft

2.10 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Ilahabad** (A Dobbin, 4-6 fav); 2, Jacdor (4-1); 3, Foxes Tail (9-1). 14 ran. 15l, 3½l. J FitzGerald. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.50, £1.50. DF: £2.70. CSF: £3.34.

2.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Stretching** (Mark Smith, 8-1); 2, Bretache (2-1 fav); 3, Brooksie (33-1). 15 ran. Sh hd, 3l. A Juckes. Tote: £10.30; £3.60, £1.90, £7.30. DF: £16.80. CSF: £25.81. Tricast: £531.41.

3.15 (3m ch) 1, **Atavistic** (R Widger, 6-4 fav); 2, Indian Miss (5-1); 3, Sunuvugun (16-1). 13 ran. NR: Albermarle. ¾l, dist. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.50; £1.50, £1.90, £2.80. DF: £5.60. CSF: £8.86.

3.45 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Lizzys First** (D Salter, 11-10 fav); 2, Beely Nova (8-1); 3, Siberian Mystic (11-2). 9 ran. 4l, nk. B Millman. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £2.10, £1.60. DF: £6.90. CSF: £9.94. Tricast: £31.97.

4.20 (3m ch) 1, **Raffles Rooster** (N Williamson, 2-1 fav); 2, Dunnicks View (25-1); 3, Tom Pinch (20-1); 4, Normarange (20-1). 16 ran. 2l, 1½l. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £3.10; £1.20, £5.60, £3.00, £5.60. DF: £101.10. Tote Trifecta: £3,979.00 - part won (pool of £2,970.31 carried forward to Sandown 3.55 today). CSF: £57.03. Tricast: £763.81.

4.50 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, **Plaid Maid** (M Griffiths, 11-2); 2, Crazy Crusader (6-1); 3, Country Store (6-4 fav). 15 ran. NR: Equity's Darling. 17l, ¾l. M Bradstock. Tote: £6.80; £2.00, £2.30, £1.30. DF: £36.80. CSF: £50.45. Tricast: £96.88.

5.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Aussteiler** (A P McCoy, 11-10 fav); 2, Party Romance (6-1); 3, Moscow Mist (25-1). 12 ran. NR: Little Heart, Spanish Eyes. 20l, ¾l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £1.90, £3.70. DF: £11.60. CSF: £10.80.

Placepot: £7.20. **Quadpot:** £25.60.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.00 (1m 4f) 1, **Opera Buff** (P Fredericks, 11-10 fav); 2, Delius (5-1); 3, Java Shrine (7-4). 6 ran. ¾l, 14l. Miss Gay Kelleway. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £3.20. DF: £7.50. CSF: £7.03.

2.30 (6f) 1, **Thats Life** (L Carter, 4-5 fav); 2, Pageboy (4-1); 3, Friendly Brave (5-1). 6 ran. 6l, ½l. T Mills. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £2.30. DF: £2.10. CSF: £3.71.

3.05 (7f) 1, **Nanny's Affair** (T Sprake, 13-8 fav); 2, Forty Forte (9-1); 3, Wild Thing (5-2). 7 ran. 1l, 1½l. Sir Mark Prescott. Tote: £2.30; £1.90, £5.10. DF: £12.10. CSF: £16.68.

3.35 (1m 2f) 1, **Shanghai Lil** (F Norton, 2-1 fav); 2, Wild Nettle (11-2); 3, Oxbane (4-1). 6 ran. NR: Chayanee's Arena. 1½l, hd. M Fetherston-Godley. Tote: £2.90; £1.90, £1.50. DF: £4.50. CSF: £12.48.

4.10 (5f) 1, **Sotonian** (A Nicholls, 4-1); 2, Half Tone (9-4 fav); 3, Kalar (10-1). 9 ran. Hd, ½l. P Felgate. Tote: £5.20; £1.50, £1.40, £2.30. DF: £5.80. CSF: £12.29. Tricast: £76.14. Half Tone finished first, but after a stewards' inquiry was placed second.

4.40 (7f) 1, **Bartholomew** (T Sprake, 13-8 fav); 2, Shady Deal (25-1); 3, Indian Swinger (11-4). 5 ran. ¾l, 1½l. T Naughton. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £4.00. DF: £31.10. CSF: £30.48.

Placepot: £11.80. **Quadpot:** £9.00.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
1.40 Hillzah. 2.10 Bustling Rio. 2.40 Press Ahead. 3.15 Ambitious. 3.45 Pip's Brave. 4.20 Stutton Gal. 4.50 Musalse.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.40 LAXTON HANDICAP
(Div I: £1,893: 2m) (10 runners)

1 00/1 HE'S GOT WINGS 7 (CD,F) M Pelt 6-10-2 (6ex) G Carter 9
2 -240 COLERIDGE 20 (B,CB,F,G,S) J Sheehan 11-9-9 J Wilson (7) 3
3 3-03 HILLZAH 23 (CB,F,G,S) R Bastiman 11-9-5 Dean McKeown 10
4 30-4 BINT ST JAMES 48 W Clay 4-9-3 J Weaver 5
5 000/ REMEMBER STAR 16J A Newcombe 6-8-13 J Quinn 1
6 1-23 TIME OUT 7 (C) M Polglase 4-8-9 R Lappin 4
7 -001- HAPPY MEDIUM 93J (C) G Enright 6-8-7 P Fessey 8
8 042- MRS PICKLES 101J M Usher 4-8-6 T Sprake 6
9 -043 SHAHRANI 35 M Chapman 7-8-1 S Righton (7) 2
10 00-6 TILLYBOY 42 Mrs M Reveley 9-7-12 L Charnock 7

11-4 He's Got Wings, 4-1 Hillzah, 5-1 Bint St James, 7-1 Time Out, 8-1 Coleridge, Mrs Pickles, 10-1 Happy Medium, 14-1 others.

2.10 GIRTON HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,634: 1m 3f) (13)

1 00-6 MINTY 14 C Thornton 9-7 Dean McKeown 2
2 4340 ZOLA 13 M Quinn 9-5 F Norton 7
3 -010 ALANA'S CAVALIER 25 (B,C) R Hollinshead 9-4 P M Quinn (7) 11
4 340- JANE ANN 111 A Jarvis 9-3 D Sweeney 13
5 04-0 PERTEMPS CRAIC 48 A Newcombe 9-3 J Weaver 3
6 -643 SATRIA 15 Miss G Kelleway 9-0 J Quinn 1
7 600- RIVER BOY 80 P Shakespeare 8-13 R Cochrane 6
8 0-03 LITTLE HENRY 10 (V) P Evans 8-12 J P Spencer (3) 9
9 60-0 SWING JOB 24 T Mills 8-12 L Carter 4
10 0-43 BUSTLING RIO 23 P Haslam 8-12 P Goode (5) 10
11 00-0 MISS TRAXDATA 18 M Bell 8-8 G Faulkner (3) 5
12 -056 LOST SPIRIT 31 P Hiatt 8-4 L Charnock 8
13 -556 SUPERBOB 9 (B) R Williams 8-1 G Bardwell 12

3-1 Satria, 9-2 Bustling Rio, 11-2 Little Henry, 6-1 Alana's Cavalier, 7-1 Zola, 10-1 Swing Job, 12-1 Miss Traxdata, 14-1 others.

2.40 HARDWICK CLAIMING STAKES (£2,348: 6f) (13)

1 000- TIME TO FLY 65 (B,CD) B Murray 6-9-5 D Sweeney 3
2 01-6 PRESS AHEAD 13 (D) B McMahon 4-8-13 R Cochrane 5
3 -413 PALACEGATE TOUCH 18 (BF,D,F,G,S) J Berry 9-8-11 P Bradley (7) 6
4 4-13 SUE ME 37 (BF,CD,F,S) D Nicholls 7-8-11 P Clarke (7) 9
5 0335 MAITEAMIA 16 (B,CD,G,S) S Bowring 6-8-9 J Quinn 2
6 02-2 SAMWAR 13 (V,D,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-8-7 P McCabe 13
7 4534 AWESOME VENTURE 4 (V,C) M Chapman 9-8-5 S Righton (7) 7
8 0622 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 7 (BF,CD) R Hollinshead 8-8-5 P M Quinn (7) 10
9 6603 PRINCIPAL BOY 9 (C,B,S) Miss J Craze 6-8-5 T Williams 11
10 600- INDIAN SPLENDOUR 76 R Marvin 4-8-4 G Bardwell 8
11 -760- MARJORIE ROSE 288 (D,G) R Brotherton 6-8-2 F Norton 12
12 2403 LITTLE IBNR 9 (V,CD,F) P Evans 8-8-1 J Tate 4
13 /00- GORMIRE 59 B Murray 6-7-10 A Polli (3) 1

11-4 Samwar, 3-1 Sue Me, 4-1 Palacegate Touch, 7-1 Bold Aristocrat, 10-1 Awesome Venture, 12-1 Maiteamia, Little Ibnr, 14-1 others.

3.15 KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD HANDICAP
(£3,543: 6f) (7)

1 145- PIGEON 123 (D,F,G,S) D Barker 4-10-0 T Williams 2
2 -250 GENERAL KLAIRE 32 (D) B McMahon 4-9-4 R Cochrane 1
3 4-62 AMBITIOUS 21 (V) J Fanshawe 4-8-7 W Ryan 6
4 0-46 SUNSET HARBOUR 15 (F,G,S) S Kettlewell 6-7-10 J Quinn 7
5 560- RIVER ENSIGN 55 (CD,S) W Brisbourne 6-7-10 P M Quinn (7) 3
6 51-6 ALLSTARS DANCER 31 (B,G) T Naughton 6-7-10 A Polli (3) 5
7 -0-00 SERRATE 18 R Marvin 5-7-10 G Bardwell 4

6-4 General Klaire, 11-4 Ambitious, 6-1 Sunset Harbour, 7-1 Allstars Dancer, 8-1 Pigeon, 12-1 River Ensign, 33-1 Serrate.

3.45 RAINWORTH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,024: 1m) (6)

1 5-21 AIR OF ESTEEM 22 (D) P Haslam 9-7 P Goode (5) 6
2 52-3 WESTERN COMMAND 24 (BF) M Prescott 9-5 T Sprake 3
3 1-52 WINDSHIFT 23 (V,CD) D Shaw 9-1 R Winston (3) 5
4 -613 BAMBOO GARDEN 14 (B,CD) G Chung 8-13 M Tebbutt 4
5 6-14 PIP'S BRAVE 14 (CD) M Polglase 8-13 R Lappin 1
6 2433 MALCHIK 8 (D,S) P Howling 7-12 J Quinn 2

2-1 Air Of Esteem, 3-1 Windshift, 4-1 Western Command, 13-2 Bamboo Garden, 7-1 Pip's Brave, 10-1 Malchik.

4.20 MAPLEBECK STAKES (3-Y-O: £1,847: 7f) (8)

1 2224 GOLDEN SYRUP 4 (C) P Howling 8-12 J Quinn 7
2 56- BERYL THE PERIL 184 N Bycroft 8-6 S Drowne 1
3 0-43 CARRIE POOTER 4 (F) T Barron 8-6 Kimberley Hart (5) 5
4 60-0 HABIBI 25 (G) Mrs N Macauley 8-6 P McCabe 4
5 60-3 IRISH CREAM 8 (V,C,S) P Evans 8-6 J P Spencer (3) 6
6 -342 JUST FOR YOU JANE 2 (BF) T Naughton 8-6 T Sprake 3
7 0 PAMS PRINCESS 23 K Bishop 8-6 P Fessey 2
8 5-25 STUTTON GAL 18 (B) J Wharton 8-6 F Norton 8

2-1 Irish Cream, 7-2 Carrie Pooter, Just For You Jane, 5-1 Golden Syrup, 14-1 others.

4.50 LAXTON HANDICAP (Div II: £1,893: 2m) (10)

1 -433 MUSALSE 10 (D,F) P Haslam 4-8-10 P Goode (5) 4
2 303- UNIFORM 15J (S) Miss S Hall 4-9-8 A McGlone 7
3 6-20 MACH ONE 21 (BF) M Prescott 4-9-4 T Sprake 9
4 10-6 CAROL AGAIN 14 (C) N Bycroft 7-9-2 S Drowne 8
5 333- BLACK ICE BOY 43J (V,D,S) R Bastiman 8-9-1 Dean McKeown 5
6 /325 MUDLARK 7 (V) J Norton 7-9-0 O Pears 1
7 003- NORTH OF KALA 93J G L Moore 6-8-12 P Doe (5) 2
8 740/ TIAPHENA 13J (D,G) T Donnelly 8-8-8 C Rutter 10
9 -032 KEEPSAKE 8 (F) M Usher 5-8-0 N Carlisle 3
10 4000 SHUTTLECOCK 7 (B,C,S) D Chapman 8-7-13 L Charnock 6

3-1 Uniform, 4-1 Mach One, 5-1 Mudlark, 6-1 Musalse, 8-1 Keepsake, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

SOUTHWELL: Trainers: Miss S Hall, 4 winners from 6 runners, 66.7%; M Prescott, 25 from 81, 30.9%; G Enright, 3 from 11, 27.3%; P Haslam, 23 from 126, 18.3%; M Bell, 9 from 52, 17.3%. Jockeys: Kimberley Hart, 11 winners from 50 rides, 22.0%; J Weaver, 37 from 220, 16.8%; M Tebbutt, 12 from 76, 15.8%; P McCabe, 20 from 134, 14.9%; R Cochrane, 20 from 154, 13.0%.

FAKENHAM: Trainers: O Sherwood, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; M Chapman, 3 from 10, 30.0%; O Brennan, 7 from 25, 28.0%; C Egerton, 3 from 11, 27.3%; S Gollings, 3 from 11, 27.3%. Jockeys: A Dobbin, 4 winners from 10 rides, 40.0%; Michael Brennan, 5 from 20, 25.0%; J McCarthy, 4 from 16, 25.0%; M Brennan, 7 from 33, 21.2%; W Marston, 4 from 19, 21.1%.

FAKENHAM



THUNDERER
1.30 River Frontier. 2.00 High Mood. 2.30 Prairie Indian. 3.00 SON OF ANSHAN (nap). 3.35 Memsahib Ofesteem. 4.10 Pro Bono. 4.40 Masseuse.

Carl Evans: 4.10 Pro Bono.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.30 COUNTRYSIDE MARCH FIRST ANNIVERSARY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,819: 2m) (16 runners)

1 0135 LIMIT THE DAMAGE 49 (D,S) J Wroye 7-12-0 J Goldstein (3) 87
2 53P3 SCORCHED AIR 11F (V,CD,G) Mrs S Lamyman 9-11-6 Mr T Gibney (5) 87
3 4U26 PHARLY REEF 42 (CD,G) D Burchell 7-11-5 D J Burchell 70
4 3/4- STAR MANAGER 29F (BF) R Spicer 9-11-3 Mr N Fehily (7) –
5 040/ NAGOBELIA 551F (CD,F,G,S) J Pearce 11-11-0 S Durack –
6 4-0P CAPTAIN MARMALADE 8F (V,S) D Thom 10-10-12 D Gallagher –
7 2F0- LUCY TUFTY 247F (B) G Prodromou 8-10-11 Michael Brennan 56
8 50-0 LITTLE NOD 172 (CD,F) J R Best 10-10-9 R Waldey [illegible]
9 -040 MUHASSIL 49 K Morgan 6-10-9 A S Smith 59
10 B165 RIVER FRONTIER 36 (D,G) M Usher 4-10-8 D Byrne 84
11 02P SENOR HURST 62 Mrs P Sly 4-10-7 W Marston –
12 4060 SOVEREIGN 78 J Parvert 5-10-6 D Creech (7) 88
13 554 FIGAWIN 17F Mrs H Walton 4-10-3 Mr A Walton 39
14 0365 GALLOPING GUNS 14 (D,G) B Llewellyn 7-10-3 O McPhail (5) 68
15 60-P CHILLY LAD 15 (F) Mrs H Mobley 8-10-2 Mr A Tate (7) –
16 PP0 MOON QUEST 49 K Morgan 4-10-0 Mr R Forristal (5) –

4-1 River Frontier, 9-2 Limit The Damage, 7-1 Scorched Air, Pharly Reef, Muhassil, 8-1 Star Manager, 10-1 Little Nod, Senor Hurst, 12-1 others.

2.00 GRAHAM BUILDING SUPPLIES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,006: 3m 110yd) (9)

1 /21F MONICASMAN 48 (BF,F,G,S) G McCourt 9-11-11 E Husband 85
2 -26P MANOR MIEO 39 (CD,F, G) G Prodromou 13-11-9 Mr A Coe (7) 97
3 -U16 WHIPPERS DELIGHT 87 (G,S) G Charles-Jones 11-11-8 L Cooper (7) 105
4 4-F3 MADAM MUCK 64 (G) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-2 C Llewellyn 29
5 /232 BLAZING STORM 16 (B,BF,G) C Egerton 7-10-8 J A McCarthy –
6 3524 HIGH MOOD 23 (G,S) T George 9-10-7 R Waldey [illegible]
7 133P POLO PONY 55 (F,G,S) J Upson 7-10-0 J Supple 102
8 4456 WILLIE WANNABE 55 (S) M Chapman 9-10-0 W Worthington 104
9 -PP4 HIGHLAND FLAME 39 (S) A Blackmore 10-10-0 C Webb 100

11-4 Monicasman, 4-1 Manor Mieo, 5-1 Madam Muck, Polo Pony, 7-1 Blazing Storm, High Mood, 8-1 Whippers Delight, 16-1 others.

2.30 EBF (LET'S NOT LOSE THE COUNTRYSIDE) NH NOVICES HURDLE (£2,667: 2m 4f) (9)

1 1-51 BARNEYS BELL 69 (S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-5 C Llewellyn 61
2 11 COUNT CAMPIONI 29 (G,S) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-0 D Leahy –
3 05 EASTON GALE 21 G Hubbard 5-11-0 R Guest 69
4 306 KALANTE 21 J FitzGerald 6-11-0 P Niven 61
5 0035 PRAIRIE INDIAN 15 O Brennan 6-11-0 M Brennan [illegible]
6 0/6 THE COUNTRY DON 43 K Morgan 7-11-0 Mr R Forristal (5) –
7 45 BOOTY 81 Mrs D Haine 6-10-9 S Durack –
8 0-P0 JEANANN 32 K Morgan 6-10-9 A S Smith –
9 4-00 MILFORD WAY 106 T George 6-10-9 R Waldey 45

11-10 Count Campioni, 9-4 Barneys Bell, 13-2 Easton Gale, 10-1 Kalante, 20-1 Prairie Indian, Booty, 33-1 The Country Don, Milford Way, 66-1 Jeanann.

3.00 COUNTRYSIDE PURSUITS NOVICES CHASE (£3,326: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 1241 FERRERS 22 (G,S) Mrs P Sly 8-11-6 W Marston [illegible]
2 -P1F HOUSE CAPTAIN 80 (BF,D,G,S) J FitzGerald 10-11-5 P Niven 111
3 314P SON OF ANSHAN 70 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Jones 6-11-5 A Dobbin 114
4 1/4P BUTLERS MATCH 15 (G) Mrs Mobley 9-10-12 Mr S Morris (7) –
5 P545 JOKER JACK 63 (F,S) R Dean 14-10-12 Mr N Fehily (7) 69
6 -U24 KNOCK LEADER 41 (D,S) O Sherwood 7-10-12 J A McCarthy –

7-4 House Captain, 11-4 Ferrers, 7-2 Son Of Anshan, Knock Leader, 25-1 Butlers Match, 33-1 Joker Jack.

3.35 EAT BRITISH PORK ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,979: 2m) (7)

1 4253 WESLEY'S LAD 50 (S) D Burchell 5-11-11 D J Burchell 114
2 -P25 NIGHT DANCE 55 (G) K Morgan 7-11-1 A S Smith 82
3 0-00 CORAL ISLAND 73 (D,F,G) J FitzGerald 5-10-12 P Niven 77
4 2100 ANTIGUAN FLYER 39 (CD,G) G Prodromou 10-10-8 J Goldstein (3) 108
5 5215 MEMSAHIB OFESTEEM 20 (G) S Gollings 8-10-6 D Gallagher [illegible]
6 -461 JANGLYNYVE 7 (D,F,S) Mrs M Jones 6-10-0 (5ex) A Dobbin 105
7 -251 REGGIE BUCK 21 (D,S) J L Harris 5-10-0 J Tizzard 114

5-2 Reggie Buck, 3-1 Antiguan Flyer, 4-1 Janglynyve, 7-1 Wesley's Lad, Memsahib Ofesteem, 10-1 Night Dance, 12-1 Coral Island.

4.10 REDSOCK COUNTRY FAIRS HUNTERS CHASE (£2,169: 2m 5f 110yd) (8)

1 /PP- GOOD OLD CHIPS 390P J Whyte 12-12-0 Mr A Coe (7) –
2 245- LINLATHEN 298 (F,G,S) Mrs A Bell 9-12-0 Mr N M Bell (7) –
3 R-PU PLAN-A 12P (F) Graham Smith 9-12-0 Mr A Martin (7) –
4 34-3 PRO BONO 7 (CD,F,G) W Cardwell 9-12-0 Mr N Fehily (5) [illegible]
5 14/2 RING ALBERT 12P (F) B Dowling 7-12-0 Mr M Gingell (7) –
6 P1-5 TORUS SPA 19P (G) J Turner 8-12-0 Mr A Sansome 77
7 -22F WARREN BOY 7 (F,S) T L Jones 9-12-0 Mr A Dalton (7) 87
8 44-P COOLVAWN LADY 258P (D,F,G,S) W Halliday 10-11-9 Mr S Morris (7) 81

2-1 Pro Bono, 5-2 Linlathen, 5-1 Warren Boy, 6-1 Ring Albert, 7-1 Torus Spa, 10-1 Coolvawn Lady, 33-1 Good Old Chips, 50-1 Plan-A.

4.40 DONCASTER BLOODSTOCK SALES/EBF MARES ONLY NH FLAT (£1,283: 2m) (10)

1 11 CRACK SHOT 35 (S) J Neville 5-11-12 Mr R Forristal (5) 88
2 13 WATER STRATFORD 42 (G) P R Webber 6-11-9 Mr C R Weaver (7) [illegible]
3 40 FIFI 22 John Berry 5-11-2 L Corcoran (7) 51
4 LITTLE FINTLOCH K Morgan 6-11-2 A S Smith –
5 6 MASSEUSE 22 Mrs D Haine 5-11-2 S Durack 88
6 0 STANBROOK LASS 33 Mrs A E Johnson 6-11-2 V Smith –
7 STEEL ROSE N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2 C Llewellyn –
8 TO BE HONEST LIKE K Morgan 6-11-2 L Cooper (7) –
9 0 TOM'S DEAL 22 M Tompkins 5-11-2 D Yellowlees (7) 42
10 3 MYDANTE 23 J S Moore 4-10-6 Mr A Price 85

7-4 Crack Shot, 2-1 Water Stratford, 7-1 Masseuse, 8-1 Little Fintloch, Steel Rose, 14-1 Mydante, 25-1 To Be Honest Like, 33-1 others.

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER
1.45 Native King. 2.20 Strong Paladin. 2.50 Lastman. 3.25 Djeddah. 3.55 Tara-Brogan. 4.30 Capenwray. 5.00 Devil's Advocate.

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.55 ALZOOMO.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.45 'CHIPS ARE FREE' NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,009: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

101 1-1214 HOH INVADER 62 (D,F,S) (D Ausperi) C Mann 7-11-8 J Magee 95
102 21 NATIVE KING 77 (CD,G) (Doucleprom) J Old 7-11-4 T J Murphy 83
103 2 BACCHANAL 22 (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Henderson 5-11-0 M A Fitzgerald 85
104 BIG BRIAN J Gifford 6-11-0 B Powell –
105 2352 COBLE LANE 652 J Williams 7-11-0 G Tormey –
106 0- GONE BALLISTIC 354 (Mrs E Lockhart) D Nicholson 6-11-0 R Massey –
107 52 HIGH GAME 24 G L Moore 5-11-0 A P McCoy [illegible]
108 C KEYNOTE 699 R Rowe 7-11-0 B Fenton –
109 5-323 LORDBERNIEBOUFFANT 21 J Gifford 6-11-0 P Hide 91
110 412-44 MORE TORNEY 141 (S) N Henderson 6-11-0 J R Kavanagh 52
111 40 PIGEON POST 42 P Charlinge 6-11-0 T Jenks –
112 60- QUICK SUCCESSION 328 (Mrs R Baker) N Gaselee 6-11-0 J Osborne –
113 05 SMIRT 93 J Gifford 5-11-0 O Burrows (5) 91
114 6? THE EXTRA MAN 27 (D,S) M Ryan 5-11-0 J Ryan –

BETTING: 9-4 Bacchanal, 7-2 Hoh Invader, 4-1 Native King, 8-1 High Game, 10-1 Lordberniebouffant, 12-1 The Extra Man, 16-1 Gone Ballistic, 25-1 others.

1998: MOUNTAIN STORM 6-11-0 M A Fitzgerald (5-2) N Henderson 10 ran

Hoh Invader 19l 4th of 7 to Hidebound in novice hurdle grade 2 at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft); previously beat Ashley Much 4l in 12-runner novice hurdle grade 2 at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft). Native King beat Artemis 10l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good); previously 6½l 3rd of 19 to Monsignor in national hunt flat race at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) with Smirt (4lb better off) 19l 9th. Bacchanal 1½l 2nd of 10 to Tonoco in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Coble Lane 10l 2nd of 20 to Melody Maid in national hunt flat race at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). High Game 9l 2nd of 11 to Enipeus in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft). Lordberniebouffant 4½l 4th of 17 to All Gong in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good to soft). More Torney 15l 4th of 11 to Townleyhall in novice hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good). Quick Succession 45l 8th of 21 to Native Speaker in national hunt flat race at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). Smirt 22l 5th of 11 to Solomon in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft). The Extra Man beat Wild About You 4l in 12-runner national hunt flat race at Kempton (2m, soft).

BACCHANAL went into the notebook when second to the useful Tonoco on his racecourse debut

2.20 ALDANITI NOVICES CHASE (£3,631: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners)

201 05-2F1 CELTIC SEASON 24 (D,S) (Four to Trumps Partnership) Miss H Knight 7-11-7 J Culloty 99
202 132-12 DAWN LEADER 76 (F,G,S) (Bonusprint) J Old 8-11-7 T J Murphy 120
203 5050-P BELVENTO 92 (Mrs J Plackett) J Gifford 7-11-3 O Burrows (5) –
204 1F-5P5 BETTER OFFER 13 (D,F,S) (Sir Eric Parker) Mrs A Perrett 7-11-3 R Dunwoody 111
205 32-344 SOLOMAN 55 (G) J Gifford 6-11-3 P Hide –
206 32-3F2 STRONG PALADIN 62 (F,S) (Mrs A Brodie) T Casey 8-11-3 J Osborne [illegible]

BETTING: 8-11 Dawn Leader, 5-1 Strong Paladin, Better Offer, 6-1 Celtic Season, 12-1 Soloman, 50-1 Belvento

1998: STORMY PASSAGE 8-11-7 R Dunwoody (5-4) P Hobbs 3 ran

Celtic Season beat Lyphard's Fable 18l in 6-runner handicap chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Dawn Leader 1½l 2nd of 5 to Dines in novice chase grade 2 at Sandown (2m, good) with Better Offer (levels) 17l last; previously beat Wild Hand in 4-runner novice chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good to soft). Better Offer 26l 5th of 6 to Hon Express in novice chase grade 1 at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Soloman beaten a distance 4th of 5 to Eagles Rest in novice chase at Kempton (2m, heavy); previously 21l 4th of 9 to Ela Agapi Mou in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to soft). Strong Paladin 13l 2nd of 7 to Kuralka in novice chase grade 2 at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft).

DAWN LEADER has taken well to chasing this season and looks the one to beat here

2.50 CAT & MOUSE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,853: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

301 512 PAGASONIC 14 (BF,S) (G Georgiou) G L Moore 11-1 P Hide 83
302 P5 CLASSIC IMPACT 41 (B) (J Brown & M Blackburn) P Murphy 10-10 R Farrant 78
303 HERMINIUS 251F (Roman Legion) G Balding 10-10 A Maguire –
304 3P INNER LIGHT 25F (BF) (Mrs P Salter) B Pearce 10-10 M Batchelor (5) 92
305 3P JAMORIN DANCER 41 (M Banks) M Banks 10-10 M Richards –
306 05 LASTMAN 20 (D Mercer) D Nicholson 10-10 R Johnson 50
307 13362 MOTHERS HELP 13 (D,S) (Berkshire Com Components) D Williams 10-10 R Dunwoody 81
308 TEQUILA 176F (Major-Gen G H Watkins) N Henderson 10-10 M A Fitzgerald –
309 232234 WAVE ROCK 37 (BF) (Earl Cadogan) Miss H Knight 10-10 J Culloty [illegible]
310 ZADA 13F (B Peacock) G L Moore 10-10 J R Kavanagh –
311 0 SATWA BOULEVARD 37 (Mrs Edward Belcher & Mrs Peter Kemeley) C Mann 10-5 J Magee –

BETTING: 5-2 Tequila, 7-2 Mothers Help, 9-2 Wave Rock, 11-2 Pagasonic, 7-1 Lastman, 10-1 Herminius, Inner Light, 33-1 others.

1998: UPGRADE 11-6 C Llewellyn (4-9 fav) N Twiston-Davies 6 ran

Pagasonic 24l 2nd of 3 to Lord Of Love in 4yo novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, heavy); previously beat Lord Of Love 7l in 8-runner 4yo novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft). Classic Impact 23l 5th of 13 to Flush in 4yo novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, heavy). Inner Light pulled up in 3yo novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy); previously 8l 3rd of 6 to Hit And Run in 3yo novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). Jamorin Dancer pulled up in 4yo novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft); previously 94l 8th of 9 to New Bird in 3yo novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, soft). Lastman 40l 5th of 10 to Dangerus Precedent in 4yo novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Mothers Help 4l 2nd of 8 to Zapateado in 4yo novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). Tequila fairly useful form at around a mile when trained by Luca Cumani on the Flat. Sold out of stable for 26,000gns. Wave Rock 19l 4th of 10 to Scarlet Pimpernel in 4yo novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, heavy) with Pagasonic (5lb worse off) 25l 5th and Satwa Boulevard (levels) a distance 8th.

WAVE ROCK deserves to find a race and sets a fair standard for Tequila to aim at

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
J Old	18	52	34.6	R Dunwoody	31	126	24.6
Mrs A Perrett	3	14	21.4	A McCoy	20	99	20.2
D Nicholson	17	87	19.5	J Osborne	15	78	19.2
J King	7	39	17.9	A Maguire	12	72	16.7
Miss H Knight	9	52	17.3	T J Murphy	5	33	15.2
R Rowe	6	40	15.0	N Williamson	8	55	14.5

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Sandown Park: 2.50 Classic Impact. 4.30 Around The Gale. **Southwell:** 2.10 Superbob. 4.50 Black Ice Boy.

3.25 STAG HANDICAP CHASE (£8,325: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

401 P64-53 DJEDDAH 231 (B,D,F,G,S) (J Martin) F Doumen (Fr) 8-12-0 T Doumen 147
402 /1031/ HANAKHAM 709 (D,F,S) (M Brereton) M Pipe 10-12-0 A P McCoy –
403 10/3/U MORCELI 69 (F,G,S) (Hon Mrs J Corbett) J Howard Johnson 11-11-11 N Williamson –
404 6U4-52 NAHTHEN LAD 13 (B,G,S) (J Shaw) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-4 R Dunwoody [illegible]
405 4U511- EULOGY 325 (CD,G,S) (N Cooper) R Rowe 9-10-8 B Fenton 146
406 3/3-5P STAY LUCKY 41 (B,G) (M Buckley) N Henderson 10-10-0 A Maguire 137
407 414-3P SYMBOL OF SUCCESS 69 (D,G) (KDT Racing Syndicate) D Williams 8-10-0 R Johnson 126
408 22-610 JEFFERIES 20 (D,G) (Miss S Blumberg) J Old 10-10-0 T J Murphy 139

Long handicap: Stay Lucky 9-11, Symbol Of Success 9-9, Jefferies 9-6.

BETTING: 5-2 Hanakham, 7-2 Nahthen Lad, 5-1 Djeddah, 6-1 Eulogy, Jefferies, 8-1 Morceli, 12-1 Stay Lucky, 20-1 Symbol Of Success

1998: BARONET 8-10-11 R Johnson (5-1) D Nicholson 4 ran

Djeddah 9½l 3rd of 9 to Lorqein in chase at Auteuil (2m 6f, good). Hanakham beat Eudipe 2½l in 14-runner chase grade 1 at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to firm) with Djeddah (levels) 7½l 3rd. Morceli unseated rider in handicap chase at Haydock (2m, soft); previously 5½l 3rd of 5 to The Grey Monk in handicap chase at Ayr (2m 1f, good). Nahthen Lad 9l 2nd of 6 to Clever Remark in handicap chase grade 2 at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to soft). Eulogy beat Foodbroker Star 5l in 6-runner handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good); previously beat Carole's Crusader neck in 11-runner handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to soft). Stay Lucky pulled up in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, soft); previously 13l 5th of 13 to Zaggy Lane in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m, heavy). Symbol Of Success pulled up in handicap chase at Lingfield (3m, soft); previously 2l 3rd of 8 to The Gopher in handicap chase at Market Rasen (3m 1f, good to firm). Jefferies 32l 9th of 19 to Major Bell in handicap chase at Doncaster (3m, good to soft), previously beat Spring Gale 5l in 16-runner handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good).

The long-absent 1997 SunAlliance Chase winner, HANAKHAM, is interesting on his debut for Martin Pipe

3.55 WILLIAM HILL HURDLE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£5,589: 2m 4f 110yd) (9 runners)

501 0-2211 GOODTIME GEORGE 21 (S) (Mrs M Bone) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-10 R Dunwoody 109
502 5-1153 TARA-BROGAN 96 (D,F,G) (DSM (Demolition Services)) I Williams 6-11-5 R Johnson 83
503 41P133 ALZOOMO 20 (B,D,F,G) (L Jackson) J Glover 7-11-2 A P McCoy [illegible]
504 P1211/ EL FREDDIE 661 (C,F,G) (M Lovatt) J Old 9-10-12 T J Murphy –
505 /142-P EL DON 27 (D,F,G) (D Morris) M Ryan 7-10-10 J Ryan –
506 F0-P00 GARNWIN 32 (D,F,G,S) (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 9-10-9 M A Fitzgerald 93
507 013150 SHADIANN 20 (G) (M Blackburn & J Brown) P Murphy 5-10-8 R Farrant 100
508 23-452 TURRILL HOUSE 21 (BF,G,S) (J Hawksley) W Musson 7-10-0 N Williamson 102
509 144-32 WALTER'S DESTINY 77 (G) (C Mitchell) C Mitchell 7-10-0 Sophie Mitchell 105

Long handicap: Walter's Destiny 9-11

BETTING: 9-4 Goodtime George, 7-2 Alzoomo, 6-1 Shadiann, 7-1 Tara-Brogan, Turrill House, 9-1 El Freddie, El Don, 14-1 Walter's Destiny, 16-1 Garnwin

1998: MONTROE 6-11-10 R Dunwoody (6-4 fav) R Rowe 6 ran

Goodtime George beat Supreme Day 9l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Doncaster (3m 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Percy Parkeeper 29l in 11-runner maiden hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, heavy). Tara-Brogan 4l 3rd of 14 to Arctic Camper in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). Alzoomo 11l 3rd of 14 to Easter Ross in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good to soft). El Freddie beat Mendetor short head in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, good to firm). El Don pulled up in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, soft); previously 1½l 2nd of 10 to Beechfield Flyer in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Garnwin 23l 7th of 19 to Memsahib Ofesteem in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good). Shadiann 25l 7th of 16 to Picket Piece in novice handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft). Turrill House 4l 2nd of 7 to Shooft in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Walter's Destiny 17l 2nd of 13 to Arctic Charter in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 7f, good).

GOODTIME GEORGE remains relatively unexposed and may not be stopped by top weight

4.30 SQUIRREL HANDICAP CHASE (£5,654: 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)

601 211150 CAPENWRAY 20 (D,F,G,S) (B Peppard) J King 10-12-0 A P McCoy 133
602 21-231 SOUNDS LIKE FUN 77 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs H Brown) Miss H Knight 8-11-12 J Culloty 124
603 -52351 SHINING LIGHT 49 (D,F,G,S) (D Partnership) D Nicholson 10-11-11 R Thornton 93
604 1-UP11 CARDINAL RULE 36 (D,G,S) (P Burch) Miss V Williams 10-11-5 N Williamson 156
605 21F-52 HEADWIND 77 (CD,G,S) (Pell Mell Partners) J Gifford 8-11-5 P Hide 128
606 021-3P NAIYSARI 20 (D,G,S) (P Rich) P Rich 11-11-2 R Johnson [illegible]
607 PP1132 SCAVO 35 (S) (Mrs V O'Brien) D O'Brien 8-10-8 M Batchelor (5) 128
608 544-PP AROUND THE GALE 22 (V,D,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 8-10-6 T J Murphy 105
609 F2-223 PENTLANDS FLYER 66 (BF,D,F,G) (Mrs M Bird) J Howard Johnson 8-10-3 A Maguire 130
610 42PP2- FAIR SOCIETY 270 (D,F,G,S) (T Perkins) R Rowe 8-10-0 B Fenton 108

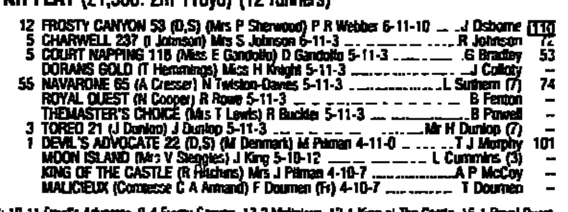
Long handicap: Fair Society 9-8

BETTING: 7-2 Cardinal Rule, 4-1 Headwind, 9-2 Shining Light, 5-1 Sounds Like Fun, 13-2 Naiysari, 8-1 Pentlands Flyer, 10-1 Scavo, 12-1 others.

1998: PHILIP'S WOODY 10-11-10 M A Fitzgerald (3-1) N Henderson 5 ran

Capenwray 32l 8th of 19 to Major Bell in handicap chase at Doncaster (3m, good to soft) with Naiysari (2lb better off) pulled up. Sounds Like Fun beat Headwind (1lb better off) neck in 7-runner handicap chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good) with Shining Light (3lb better off) 22l 5th. Shining Light beat Denicheur a distance in 5-runner handicap chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Cardinal Rule beat River Unshaken 2l in 4-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, heavy), previously beat River Bay 5l in 10-runner handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with Around The Gale (21lb better off) pulled up. Scavo beaten a distance 2nd of 3 to Carryonharry in handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, soft), previously 7l 3rd of 6 to Kadou Nonantais in handicap chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Pentlands Flyer 11l 3rd of 7 to Macle Bevard in handicap chase at Musselburgh (3m 4f, good to firm). Fair Society 10l 2nd of 6 to Song Of The Sword in novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm).

The front-running CARDINAL RULE lines up in great heart and is fancied to complete his hat-trick



5.00 WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT (£1,588: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

1 12 FROSTY CANYON 53 (D,S) (Mrs P Sherwood) P R Webber 6-11-10 J Osborne [illegible]
2 5 CHARWELL 237 (I Johnson) Mrs S Johnson 6-11-3 R Johnson 72
3 5 COURT NAPPING 118 (Miss E Gandolfo) D Gandolfo 5-11-3 G Bradley 53
4 DORANS GOLD (T Hemmings) Miss H Knight 5-11-3 J Culloty –
5 55 NAVARONE 65 (A Cresser) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3 L Suthern (7) 74
6 ROYAL QUEST (N Cooper) R Rowe 5-11-3 B Fenton –
7 THEMASTER'S CHOICE (Mrs T Lewis) R Buckler 5-11-3 B Powell –
8 3 TOREO 21 (J Dunlop) J Dunlop 5-11-3 Mr H Dunlop (7) –
9 1 DEVIL'S ADVOCATE 22 (D,S) (M Denmark) M Pitman 4-11-0 T J Murphy 101
10 MOON ISLAND (Mrs V Steggles) J King 5-10-12 L Cummins (3) –
11 KING OF THE CASTLE (R Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-7 A P McCoy –
12 MALICIEUX (Comtesse C A Armand) F Doumen (Fr) 4-10-7 T Doumen –

BETTING: 10-11 Devil's Advocate, 9-4 Frosty Canyon, 13-2 Malicieux, 12-1 King of The Castle, 16-1 Royal Quest, 25-1 Dorans Gold, 33-1 Charwell, Court Napping, Toreo, Moon Island, 50-1 others

1998: BOCA BOCA 4-10-7 Mr T Doumen (9-2) F Doumen (Fr) 15 ran

Frosty Canyon 6l 2nd of 8 to Prominent Profile in nat hunt flat (grade 2) at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft), previously beat Star Of Dungannon 1½l in 13-runner national hunt flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). Charwell 24l 5th of 15 to Young General in national hunt flat race at Worcester (2m, soft). Court Napping 26l 5th of 12 to Optimistic Thinker in national hunt flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, soft). Navarone 47l 5th of 9 to Simber Hill in national hunt flat race at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). Royal Quest Royal Fountain gelding, half brother to 1996 Grand National winner Rough Quest. Toreo beaten a distance 3rd of 7 to Isonlyme in national hunt flat race at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Devil's Advocate beat Roman Lord 6l in 21-runner maiden nat hunt flat at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). King Of The Castle Cataldi gelding, half brother to a bumper winner. Malicieux Mandalus gelding out of a lightly-raced mare.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE justified odds-on favouritism in fine style on his debut and looks a smart prospect



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Begin Bridge with *The Times*:
Lesson 44 – Rebids with extra values

Last week I looked at minimum rebids after an opening bid of One of a Suit. Now I am going to look at what to do with stronger hands.

When partner responds at the one level

What would you rebid with the following hands after you opened One Heart and your partner responded One Spade:

	(A)	(B)	(C)
♠	6	A Q 5	A Q 5
♡	K Q J 10 6 5	K J 10 5	A K J 10 4
♢	A Q 4	A Q 3	K 3
♣	A J 3	Q 10 7	J 4 3

On *Hand (A)* you have a strong six-card heart suit and 17 HCP, too much for a simple rebid. The solution is to make a jump rebid in your first suit, Three Hearts. *Hands (B)* and *(C)* are both balanced with 18 HCP. A One No-Trump rebid would show 15-17 HCP, a jump to Two No-Trumps shows 18-19. Although *Hand (B)* is perfectly balanced, *Hand (C)* is also very suitable for this rebid. Don't worry about the strong five-card heart suit or the lack of a stopper in clubs.

Both Three Hearts and Two No-Trumps are *limit* bids. They show extra values but are not forcing: partner may pass.

When partner responds at the two level

Is the situation any different after a two-level response? Suppose you hold the following hands after opening One Heart and hearing a Two Diamond response from your partner:

	(D)	(E)	(F)
♠	A 4	K J 3	K 10 3
♡	A K J 10 6 5	A Q 10 3	K J 10 6 5
♢	Q 6 5	K 10 3	A 3
♣	K 5	A 4 3	A K 4

On *Hand (D)*, with 17 HCP and a very strong six-card suit rebid Three Hearts. On *Hand (E)* you have 17 HCP, so simply rebid Two No-Trumps showing 15-17. *Hand (F)* is a little stronger so you should rebid Three No-Trumps.

The difference with the rebids over a two-level response is that they are *forcing*. The combination of an opening hand with extra values and a hand strong enough to respond at the two level adds up to a sequence where you should not stay out of game. Even a simple Two No-Trump rebid as on *Hand (E)* is forcing. After all, partner needs 9 HCP to respond at the two level and 15 is the minimum for a Two No-Trump rebid – even if both hands were minimum you would have 24 HCP between you, just one short of what you usually like for game.

☐You can get any lesson you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 26p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

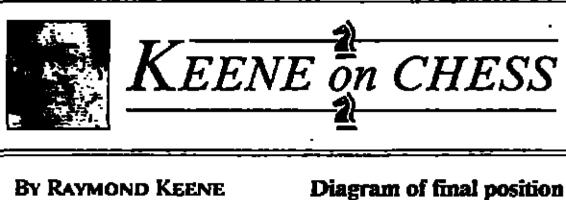
GRISAILLE
a. Ill temper
b. A bad fairy
c. Painting

ELEMI
a. A high priest
b. Fragrant gum
c. Afghan tribesmen

MANDELION
a. A musical instrument
b. A towel
c. An oration

SHIFRA
a. Light clothing
b. A Jewish journal
c. Eastern drama

Answers on page 50



KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Ten years ago

Today I conclude my historical vignettes on significant anniversaries for this pre-millennial year. Ten years ago Garry Kasparov, by then fully established as the world champion, won the inaugural and, as it turned out, sole series of World Cup tournaments organised by the short-lived Grandmasters' Association.

Held in such venues as Brussels, Reykjavik, Barcelona and Skelleftea (in Sweden), the GMA tournaments brought together the world's best and resulted in some scintillating examples of chess at its best.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Valery Salov
Barcelona World Cup 1989

English Opening

1	Nf3	Nf6
2	c4	b6
3	Nc3	c5
4	e4	d6
5	d4	cxd4
6	Nxd4	Bb7
7	Qe2	Nbd7
8	g3	Rc8
9	Bg2	a6
10	0-0	Qc7
11	b3	e6
12	Nd5	Qb8
13	Rd1	g6
14	Bg5	Bg7
15	Bxf6	Nxf6
16	Nxb6	Rd8
17	e5	Bxg2
18	exf6	Bxf6
19	Nxe6	fxe6
20	Qxe6+	Be7
21	c5	Bb7
22	Re1	Qc7
23	c6	Bxc6
24	Rac1	Rd7
25	Nxd7	Qxd7
26	Qc4	Bb7
27	Qc7	Rf8
28	Qb8+	Kf7
29	Rc7	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Rafael Vaganian
Skelleftea World Cup 1989

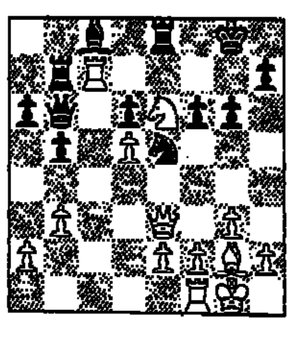
English Opening

1	c4	c5
2	Nf3	Nf6
3	Nc3	Nc6
4	d4	cxd4
5	Nxd4	e6
6	g3	Qb6
7	Ndb5	d5
8	Bg2	d4
9	Na4	Qa5+
10	Bd2	Bb4
11	Nc5	0-0
12	Nd3	Bxd2+
13	Qxd2	Qxd2+
14	Kxd2	Rd8
15	c5	Ne8
16	Na3	f6
17	f4	Bd7
18	Nc4	Rab8
19	b4	Ne7
20	a4	Bc6
21	Bf3	a6
22	Rhb1	Nc7
23	Nd6	Nf5
24	b5	axb5
25	axb5	Nxd6
26	bxc6	Nc4+
27	Kc1	bxc6
28	Rxb8	Rxb8
29	Ra4	Ne3
30	Bxc6	e5
31	fxe5	fxe5
32	Nxe5	Ne6
33	Ra5	Rc8
34	Kd2	Kf8
35	Kd3	Ke7
36	Ra7+	Kf6
37	Nd7+	Kg5
38	Bf3	Nf5
39	h4+	Kg6
40	Ra6	Kf7
41	Bd5	Re8
42	Ne5+	Kf6
43	Nf3	Black resigns

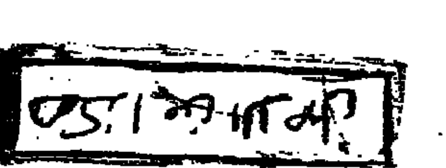
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Kochiev — Posniakov, St Petersburg 1998. Black is trying to challenge the white rook, which has invaded his position on c7. Can White do better than exchanging?



Solution on page 50



Cult of the coach creates more problems for Henry

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

This weekend, Graham Henry, the Wales coach, will find himself facing the kind of scrutiny that he has not experienced before. After his team's defeat at Murrayfield, the second failure in three matches, he would appear to be under the microscope. This is a statistic that some people are beginning to concentrate on.

Yet, at the time, the loss against South Africa in November was not thought of as a reversal at all. In some minds, a kind of victory had been achieved. Indeed, in Wales, something approaching a celebration took place. There was a noticeable lightness, if not exactly a spring, in a Welshman's step as the new dawn, much talked about, seemed to be breaking at last.

It was relative. The grief that was supposed to occur in the wake of the heavy score that had been anticipated, and which might have proved embarrassing, was replaced by a strong dose of relief that nothing of the sort happened. If it was not a win for Wales, the prevailing verdict was that the team would, at least, have deserved it. This was enough to be going on with.

In more innocent times, when sport did not matter quite so much and we were more at ease with such matters, they used to call this kind of thing a moral victory. This was a pleasant palliative, one that allowed people to feel that a bad result was not so bad after all. In the harsher light of the final few months of the 20th century, we know that there is no such thing in sport.

In another respect, too, there is a sharper, indeed a more cruel, focus and this applies to the way in which a national coach is perceived. He seems to have to ride the extreme highs and lows of his sport, with hardly anything in between. Everything is made to rest on his shoulders, not merely the fate of his team's fortunes, but that of a whole nation.

The coach in rugby, or the manager in football, is where the buck stops and yet his position and the way in which he earns his daily crust is the most vulnerably exposed. He has to depend so much on others for his own success and to do so, unlike other occupations, in the intense glare of publicity that is so open to fluctuating opinion. There is a jolly merry-go-round in football, where managers change places at every whim and which, given recent developments — Richard Hill, of Gloucester, being the latest casualty — rugby is in danger of resembling.

Henry is not in this position, not by any means, but if he has been portrayed as the great redeemer, a figure in whom everyone has faith, a few doubting Thomases have emerged on the touchline after the last match. For the most part, Wales had the better of the contest against Scotland and they could have won, but, once more, they did not bag the prize.

However, unlike the defeat against South Africa, not much comfort could be found in the result at Murrayfield. As a result, questions arise as to what extent should Henry, who, as coach, can only determine the strategy, be the centre of attraction? Or should the players, who failed tactically to win a game that was patently within their grasp, be held more to account?

Carwyn James used to regret the fact that rugby union in this country did not promote, as he would say, "the cult of the coach". This was, of course, in the Sixties and Seventies, when the rugby authorities would not allow the mere mention of the word to pass their lips, such was the distaste towards the idea that a team should have a man at the helm to teach and guide players.

Scotland had what they called "advisers" to the national team, the British Isles persisted in having an assistant manager. Once this particular hurdle had been overcome, it took them some time for the coach to be appointed a member of the selection panel. In other words, he would be in overall charge of preparing a team, which, incongruously, he had not played a part in selecting. This was not so long ago.

How times have changed. From the position of toady, a presence to be suffered, the coach is now king. But there should be some reservation. The cult of the coach may have gone too far. Rugby, in its need to generate a strongly-knitted band of players, a feeling of closeness and common spirit, acknowledging the game's tactical ebb and flow and the variety of choices to be made from minute to minute, would do better to redress the balance and to promote the "cult" of the captain. Traditionally, both New Zealand and South Africa have believed in the need of a strong character as captain and the continuity that this brings. The crucial 80 minutes of play belongs under his direct control and whatever messages are passed electronically these days between the coach's bench and the field of play, it is the captain who interprets that advice and translates it into action. The loss of Sean Fitzpatrick to the All Blacks is already measurable in their recent record-breaking series of defeats.

So it is time to take the pressure off Henry, who, after all, has been in his post for barely four months. The more responsibility is thrust upon his shoulders, the more it is taken away from the players. The sooner that the Wales team accepts more accountability for its actions, the sooner it will mature.

RUGBY UNION

Wilkinson's calm air impresses England players

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TWO of England's senior professionals gave Jonathan Wilkinson their seal of approval yesterday as the youngster prepared to start a Five Nations Championship match for the first time, against Scotland, at Twickenham tomorrow.

Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, and Jeremy Guscott, the oldest member of the team, are delighted with the calm approach that Wilkinson, 19, has adopted. Guscott made his international debut ten years ago, at the age of 23. Tomorrow, he will partner Wilkinson in the centre against a Scotland midfield that includes Alan Tait, who played with Wilkinson at Newcastle last season and who was mildly critical of Guscott in an autobiography published last year. Guscott's sometimes sardonic sense of humour did not endear him to the Scot during the British Isles tour of South Africa, though that is unlikely to colour tomorrow's meeting.

"When you play these big matches, the adrenalin soars, the expectation overwhelms you," Guscott said. "All experienced players can do is try to keep you calm, but Jonny has that ability, even at a young age. Jonny has been talking more to us in training than we have to him. He's a real general and that's unusual in one so young."

Dallaglio talks of the young centre's "calmness and reassuring presence" in the preparations for England's entry into the championship, against a side to whom they have not lost since the climactic grand-slam match of 1990 at Murrayfield. Guscott is the only English survivor of that day — Scotland have Gary Armstrong, Paul Burnell and, among the replacements, Craig Chalmers — and dismisses any significance in England's subsequent hold on the Calcutta Cup.

"History is for the media and those supporters who have been attending matches for some time," Guscott said. "History for players is today. No one goes into a game thinking it will be easy because of what has passed."

Indeed, there has been a certain twitchiness in training this week, which will keep English minds on the job in hand, devoid of any premature thoughts of triple crowns or grand slams. Dallaglio acknowledged that England's cause has been helped by their hard core of six Leicester forwards, even though he expects them to lift their game above the level of club performances.

"Having that core makes it more akin to the way things operate in other countries, where one province may supply several players," Dallaglio said. "The understanding is better and, in the helter-skelter world of English rugby, where you can go from country to club cup match, then country, then Premiership match, it makes coming together as a national squad that much easier."

The first action between England and Scotland will be this evening, at A and under-21 level at Leeds and Orrell respectively, and Dallaglio warned that Scotland's success against Wales on the opening weekend of the championship will send them south in confident mood.

"That game had Jim Telfer written all over it," Dallaglio said, referring to the man who coaches Scotland and prepared the Lions forwards on tour in 1997, Dallaglio among them. "Talk of underdogs will suit Jim and they will be well-motivated. They will do the basics well, but you can always expect a few new ideas from Scotland. We will have to be alert to what they get up to."

Hastie decides on cautious approach

BY ALASDAIR REID

CONTINUING the conservative theme suggested by their squad announcement earlier this week, the Scotland selectors resisted yesterday any temptation to tamper radically with the side that beat Wales 33-20 a fortnight ago when they named their starting line-up for the Five Nations Championship match against England at Twickenham tomorrow.

The back division chosen is exactly that which finished so strongly against Wales. Gregor Townsend retains the fly-half berth, into which he slotted effectively after Duncan Hodge had been taken off with a leg injury, while Alan Tait is retained at outside centre, the slot vacated by Townsend two weeks ago.

Arthur Hastie, the Scotland team manager, admitted that choosing the team might even have been a rubber-stamp affair, had Hodge and Doddie Weir not suffered injuries during the Welsh match.

Tait has been used chiefly as a substitute in recent matches, but the selectors clearly hope he has a level of endurance befitting a player whose international career began in 1988.

Asked if he had been tempted to wrap his players in cotton wool to avoid further injuries in the build-up, Telfer gave a characteristic response. "There was a temptation, but we managed to resist it," he said. "More like steel wool."

SCOTLAND: G H Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians), C A Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), A V Tait (Edinburgh Reivers), J A Leslie (Glasgow Caledonians), K M Logan (Wasps), G P J Townsend (Brive), G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons, captain), T J Smith (Glasgow Caledonians), G C Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians), A P Burnell (London Scottish), S Murray (Bedford), S B Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons), M D Leslie (Edinburgh Reivers), E W Peters (Bath). **Replacements:** S L Longstaff (Glasgow Caledonians), C M Chalmers (Edinburgh Reivers), I T Fairley (Edinburgh Reivers), A C Pountney (Northampton), A I Reed (Wasps), D I W Hilton (Bath), S J Brotherstone (Edinburgh Reivers)

JAMIE McDONALD/ALLSPORT



Peters, with ball in hand, was a driving force in Scotland's win over Wales at Murrayfield earlier this month

Peters surveyed in new light

Mark Souster says Scotland's No 8 has worked hard to earn respect

Eric Peters's rugby career has been a case study in proving people wrong. He burst on to the scene in 1995 with the try of the season against Wales, only to struggle to establish himself as an automatic choice for Scotland. In 1997, he was injured and dropped and returned to favour only in the final two games of last year's championship.

It has been a similar story at club level. He joined Bath from Saracens because they were the club that then set the standard and he had to overcame initial scepticism before being accepted at the Recreation Ground. Belatedly, at the age of 30 and after 27 caps, Peters is achieving the recognition that he deserves.

The Scotland No 8 is the archetypal team man, content to let others garner the headlines, safe in the knowledge that colleagues and opponents hold him in the highest regard. He will do the hard yards, so that others can benefit. Against Wales earlier this month, he was always at the heart of the action and Bill McLaren, the BBC commentator, was unstinting in his praise. "He was outstanding. His driving play was about the best I have seen. I think he was inspirational."

Not that Peters was allowed to savour the accolade. When he returned to Bath, it was to merciless ribbing. "I got a lot of abuse from the boys about what Bill said. You expect it. But as long as the team does well, I don't mind. It is not all about scoring tries."

'He will do the hard yards'

In a way, Peters mirrors Scotland. "We are always being written off, but the boys don't pay too much attention. We are developing as a side and have improved since the summer tour to Australia. Beating Wales was one step forward. We have to improve a whole lot more against England.

"They have been our bogey side, but 1990 [the last time that Scotland came out on top] is ancient history. We have to try to achieve our own result, but it will not be easy. England have beaten the world champions and should have beaten Australia.

"Their strength is in the pack, which puts a stranglehold on opponents. They are quite happy to slow the game down, keep hold of the ball and wait for the penalties. Being a lighter pack, we want a quicker game."

Although this is the professional age, with many players full-time, Peters keeps his hand in as a surveyor with the firm for which he has worked since leaving Cambridge University. A balanced life is vital, he believes. "If you are thinking of rugby all the time, you get stale or over-stressed," he said. "It is enjoyable to use your brain rather than simply getting fitter and bigger."

Peters gives much of the credit for his own improvement to Margot Wells, the wife of Allan Wells, the former Olympic 100 metres champion, with whom he trains at least once a week.

"She has helped me tremendously," he said. "She is very good for confidence. Dan Luger trains with her, so does Kenny Logan. She changes the your running style, makes you strong in the right places."

That has been evident from his added pace and greater dynamism. "I suppose I am getting more experienced," he said. "You see situations, not for the first time, and you know how to react." How he will react if England come away from Twickenham with yet another victory remains to be seen.

Gloucester cut back to move forward

BY NICOLAS ANDREWS

GLOUCESTER are to release a dozen full-time professional players in an attempt to cut the club's running costs and make the first team more competitive in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Philippe Saint-Andre, the new coach, has set himself the target of a top-six finish next season and European qualification for 2000-2001.

It was the failure to establish Gloucester in the upper echelons of the first division that cost Richard Hill his job as director of rugby at Kingsholm on Monday night. Saint-Andre, 31, who arrived on a two-year contract with a one-year option as Hill's most important signing in May 1997, expects similar treatment from the board of directors should he also fail.

"If we don't change, Gloucester will always be between seventh and twelfth, or perhaps go down," Saint-Andre said. "If Gloucester are not in the top six, I'll stop. It will be my mistake."

Several of the club's 38 full-time professionals have made little impression in the first team this year and Saint-Andre would feel happier working with a smaller squad.

"We've got a lot of harsh decisions to make," John Fidler, the rugby manager, said. "The squad is too big. We'll have a hard core of full-time professionals — the rest will go part-time. "At the end of the day, we're in business. It's not sustainable to pay 38 high wages. We have got to get back to reality."

Saint-Andre, capped 69 times and the captain of France on 34 occasions, intends to improve the squad's fitness and establish "a collective system of rugby", which will see players rested and rotated more regularly.

"The most important thing is the system," he said. "A lot of people think it's an individual sport, but it's not — it's collective. I want the players playing 26 games and no more. This year, they have played too many."

The new coach expects to play only about ten games himself next season. He will watch the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup-tie with Leeds on Sunday, with his first big test being the Tetley's Bitter Cup quarter-final with Harlequins a week later.

ICE HOCKEY

Sheffield set to show more steel

DONALD McKEE, the Sheffield Steelers coach, believes that his side will have to hit hard and often to beat Manchester Storm, the Sekonda Superleague leaders, in the first leg of the Challenge Cup semi-finals on Saturday (Devlin Barrett writes). "The way to hurt them is to play physical," McKee said. "They're a skating, puck-control team."

Although Manchester have a winning record against Sheffield this season, the Steelers won their last meeting 6-5. McKee points to the record 55 hits his players made in that match. "If we can play a bit better defensively, we can beat them," McKee said. He hopes that Manchester's schedule of three games in as many days will count against them, too.

Nottingham Panthers, who play London Knights on Saturday, also have to guard against fatigue in their cup game against Cardiff the following afternoon.

GOLF: SCOT DISCOVERS HIS BEST FORM AFTER OVERCOMING SERIOUS INJURY

Lawrie's luck turns for the better

FROM JON GREEN IN DOHA, QATAR

FEW rounds can have been more satisfying for Paul Lawrie than the seven under par 65 that he scored here yesterday to take the lead on the second day of the Qatar Masters. Lawrie, like Mark James on Wednesday, has just returned to the game after injury and, again like James, the Scot has returned in splendid form.

Lawrie is 11 under par on 133 in the European PGA Tour event, which places him two shots clear of the chasing pack led by John Bickerton, who struck a hole in one at the par-three 13th, Jean Van de Velde, of France, and Soren Kjeldsen, of Denmark. Lawrie is enjoying his change in fortune: he missed the cut in Dubai last week.

"I don't know where the change came from, but it's nice while it's here," Lawrie, said. "I've driven the ball well today and putted nicely, which is a good combination. I've not made one bogey in two rounds and I've only once looked like doing so, when I saved myself three-putting the 12th by holing a 12-footer." Lawrie, 30, has recently changed coaches, Adam Hunter replacing David Leadbetter, Nick Faldo's former coach, and he believes that the switch has paid off. "I'm working on getting closer to the ball and working the club more left on the way through," he said.

His performance on the desert course is even more impressive, considering that Dubai was his first competitive golf for four months. After injuring his knee at the end of last year, he began playing again only after his wife had given birth to their second son, Michael, on Christmas Day.

Lawrie: change of coach

"The injury was a stretched cruciate ligament of the left knee," Lawrie, who is based in Aberdeen, said. "I wasn't allowed to hit golf balls for weeks, but I don't know how I got it. An osteopath said it was a footballing injury, but I don't play football."

Raymond Russell, the joint-leader in the first round with Marc Farry, shot a round of two under par, which pushed him down to fifth place, while Bob May, of the United States, and Stephen Gallacher tied for sixth. James, the Europe Ryder Cup captain, and Ian Woosnam are among a group of eight players tied in eighth place at six under par. Farry, of France, fell out of contention with a disappointing round of 75.

Gallacher, 24, the nephew of Bernard Gallacher, the former Ryder Cup captain, was happy to make the cut after two steady rounds of 69 and 68 and made particular reference to Justin Rose, when commenting on his decision to turn professional at 21. "I was about to turn pro when I was 17 or 18, but my uncle told me to wait and they were wise words. Justin is obviously finding the step-up from amateur quite tough," he said.

Rose scored 71 yesterday, but he failed to make the cut after a poor first round. He was, however, in good company, with Thomas Bjorn, Severiano Ballesteros and Miguel Angel Jiménez also missing out. Rose, who turned professional at 17 after finishing fourth in the Open at Royal Birkdale last year, has now missed the cut in his past 14 tournaments. He also failed to qualify for the European Tour school and now faces an uncertain future of relying on invitations.

HOCKEY

Spice disappoints players

BY CATHY HARRIS AND SYDNEY FRISKIN

CHRIS SPICE, the person that the majority of players wanted to become the new coach of Great Britain, has ruled himself out of the running for the position. His decision will come as a disappointment to several senior England players, who may now reassess their international futures.

Explaining why he would not be applying for the vacant position, Spice, the performance director at the English Hockey Association as well as at the Great Britain Olympic Hockey Board, said: "It was very tempting, but it is just too soon in to the programme. If this had come up five years from now, perhaps I would have put myself forward."

Spice, who was born in Australia and is a former assistant coach to the Australia women's squad, which holds the world, Olympic and Commonwealth titles, said that seven candidates would be interviewed at the end of the month, with the the successor to Sue Slocombe expected to be announced next month. Among those believed to have applied are Maggie Souyave, the present England coach, Mike Hamilton, a former director of men's coaching, and Gavin Featherstone, who has taken charge of United States and South Africa squads at previous Olympic Games. Spice said: "If I'm not confident any of them can do the job, I won't be selecting them."

However, he did hint what qualities he would be looking for. "Managing athletes from different environments, superior tactical knowledge and technical ability are key attributes," he said.

Great Britain will swing into action after the European championship in August, but a lack of funding has caused the cancellation of the scheduled tour to Australia and New Zealand in September.

Reading, away in Prague from today for the B division of the men's European indoor club championship, must finish first or second in their pool for a place in the semi-finals. However, they will face strong opposition from Menzieshill, from Scotland, and Dynamo Ekaterinburg, from Russia. The tournament ends on Sunday.

The highlight of the five outdoor national league premier division matches arranged for Sunday is the match between Cannock, the champions, and Canterbury. The clubs fought out an exciting 3-3 draw the last time they met in October.

The wide gap that separates the top four sides — Cannock, Canterbury, Southgate and Reading — from the rest of the teams suggests that this quartet will contest the initial stages of the play-off series at Reading on April 17 and 18.

At the other end of the table, Hounslow need to win, at the very least, three of their remaining seven fixtures to be safe from relegation. They take on Beeston this weekend.

Leicester's worthy triumph a tribute to O'Neill

By Kevin McCarra

FILBERT Street really ought to be crowded with crossword fanatics, so great is the flair there for problem-solving. Multiple difficulties were negotiated on Wednesday night, when word came through that the council had given agreement, in principle, for Leicester City's proposed £25 million, 40,000-seat stadium at Bede Island South.

Martin O'Neill, the manager, rejoiced that there will be no more contemptuous chants about the surroundings from rival supporters. Visitors, in any case, ought to keep a civil tongue in their heads, showing a respect for all that the club has achieved.

Leicester dealt with one other puzzle by drawing 1-1 with Sunderland and so qualifying, on a 3-2 aggregate, for the final of the Worthington Cup, a tournament that they won in 1997. Should the side get the better of Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley on March 21, it will be the second honour that O'Neill has brought since his appointment in December 1995.

Until the arrival of the Irishman, Leicester had only collected one leading trophy. O'Neill, however, has not turned the team into some form of majestic force. With the small funds available, that would be impossible. His has been a triumph of expediency.

Sunderland, who were the better team, took the lead on Wednesday to pull level on aggregate. Leicester had to wriggle and contort themselves to get out of the trap that was closing on them. It is a flexibility that will make them a danger to the Tottenham side that George Graham has marshalled.

Leicester specialise in the unorthodox. There was a disquieting lack of other bidders, for instance, when O'Neill spent £500,000 to buy Tony Cottee, the former England forward, from Selangor, a Malaysian club, in 1997. The manager admits that the motives underpinning the deal were themselves modest.

"We were in the Uefa Cup and I had to get someone in at the beginning of August so that he would be eligible if we happened to get through a round or two," O'Neill said.

Cottee, 33, has been of more durable value and the slick, intuitive volley with which the veteran pulled Leicester level and secured their passage was his twelfth goal of the season. Two of the others had produced a 2-1 victory in the first leg of the semi-final.

There is nothing stately about Leicester's progress. They are beset by their own weaknesses and sometimes falter in the struggle against them. Even so, their powers of recovery are beyond question.

Oliver Holt believes Manchester United and Arsenal have title pedigree

Main rivals ready to draw clear

IT IS when Easter falls that the dash for the line usually begins, but this season the leading teams chose Ash Wednesday to join the helter-skelter of the battle for the FA Carling Premiership.

At Old Trafford, Alex Ferguson and Arsène Wenger watched Manchester United and Arsenal pummel each other to a 1-1 draw and promptly said that it was far too early to say whether the result had surrendered any clues about the destiny of the title. They were only half-right. If the game did little to separate the champions and their leading challengers, the pace at which it was played and the quality it exuded underlined the fact that United and Arsenal are still clear of the field.

Arsenal, without Dennis Bergkamp, Emmanuel Petit and Martin Keown, made a good fist of their resistance. Their strength in depth, which at one stage this season seemed to be lacking, bodes well for the durability of their challenge.

Opinion was divided about the impact of Nwankwo Kanu, the Nigeria forward. Some felt that he was too lazy, too languid, that he did not track back enough. But he showed enough skill and poise, and such sureness of touch, that he can only be a valuable addition to Arsenal's ranks. His signing from Internazionale may not quite have the same effect that Eric Cantona's recruitment from Leeds United had on Ferguson's side in the first year of the Premiership, but it is still likely to be highly significant.

At the least, it will put pressure on Bergkamp by ensuring that he has to be at his best to keep his place. Yet it could work even better than that. Kanu seemed to establish an instant understanding with Marc Overmars, his one-time colleague at Ajax, and with Nicolas Anelka.

BEN RADFORD / ALLSPORT



Yorke's penalty miss did not detract from the feeling that the likely champions were in opposition at Old Trafford

As for United, while they berate themselves about not converting enough of the chances they made, they can at least take solace from the fact that they were responsible for the first breach of the Arsenal defence in the league for 624 minutes. In a match in which the best attack in the Premiership met the best defence, something had to give. In the event, both units buckled. Arsenal conceded a soft goal, allowing Andy Cole to sneak in between Tony Adams and Steve Bould, and Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole missed a hatful of chances. Yorke even scuffed a first-half penalty wide.

More to the point, perhaps, while they were cancelling each other out with the kind of assured, high-tempo football that suggested they would slice through most of the rest of their games without breaking sweat, their challengers were faltering. Aston Villa seem to be settling into the role that most of their critics had allotted to them some time ago. They are an excellent side, but not yet ready for an all-out assault on the title.

Their 2-1 home defeat by Leeds United left them eight points adrift of United, who have 12 league games remaining. It is not an insurmountable margin, but Villa, with Stan Collymore troubled by stress — he returned to the clinic in London where he is receiving treatment after his unexpected appearance as a second-half substitute — and Dion Dublin in need of a hernia operation, have a squad that is a season away from being capable of mounting a consistent challenge.

That leaves Chelsea, the team that Ferguson said on Wednesday night was the best that United had faced this season. *If that was an attempt to* heap a little more pressure on Gianluca Vialli and his championship novices, then it was exquisitely timed.

As United and Arsenal sought a winner, news began to seep through from Stamford Bridge that Vialli had been sent off after a tussle with Marlon Broomes, the Blackburn Rovers defender, just after Chelsea had conceded a late equaliser.

Vialli and Frank Leboeuf, who picked up another booking, will miss the FA Cup sixth-round tie against United at Old Trafford and, slowly but surely, Chelsea seem to be running out of puff and options. They have had cruel luck with injuries. Pierluigi Casiraghi is out for the season, Tore Andre Flo is still some way from full fitness and Gustavo Poyet is still absent with a serious knee injury. Now that Vialli will be missing, too, their resources suddenly look stretched to the limit.

That is not the way to go into the run-in, whenever it starts. United and Arsenal have been there before. You can tell by the way that the rest are getting weaker as they grow stronger.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	26	14	9	3	60	28	51
Chelsea	25	12	11	2	36	20	47
Arsenal	25	12	10	3	29	12	46
A Villa	25	12	7	6	37	27	43
Leeds	25	10	9	6	38	25	39
Liverpool	25	11	5	9	47	30	38
Derby	25	9	10	6	25	22	37
West Ham	25	10	6	9	27	36	36
Wimbledon	24	9	8	7	29	35	35
Newcastle	25	9	7	9	33	33	34
Middlesbro	25	7	11	7	33	36	32
Tottenham	24	7	10	7	29	31	31
Leicester	24	7	9	8	25	29	30
Sheff Wed	24	8	5	11	27	23	29
Everton	25	6	9	10	19	27	27
Blackburn	25	6	8	11	25	32	26
Coventry	25	6	6	13	24	36	24
Charlton	25	5	8	12	29	37	23
Southampton	24	5	5	14	23	47	20
Nottm F	25	3	7	15	21	51	16

SPORT IN BRIEF

Graveney urges ICC to oversee drugs tests

■ **CRICKET:** David Graveney, the chairman of the England selectors, called yesterday for the International Cricket Council to introduce drug-testing.

"Sponsors are not exactly *queueing up to pump money* into cricket, so it is crucial the image is as you would want it to be," he said. Independent national bodies, such as the England and Wales Cricket Board and the Australian Cricket Board, operate their own schemes.

■ **BOWLS:** Carol Ashby, the women's national indoor singles champion, was foiled yesterday in her bid to become the first woman to qualify for the final stages of the English Bowls Players' Association championship. Ashby, from Eastbourne, defeated three men without dropping a set in the play-offs at Cyphers, before losing to Paul Butcher in the fourth round, 7-1, 4-7, 7-3.

■ **SAILING:** Mike Hart, of Great Britain, sailing *Gekko*, retained his lead after two more races yesterday in the Flying Fifteen world championships at Esperance, off the south coast of Western Australia. Hart finished a humble seventeenth in the fourth heat of the series to drop to fourth overall, but he was awarded victory in the fifth when Ron Packer, of Australia, was disqualified for breaking at the start.

■ **BADMINTON:** Simon Archer and Chris Hunt, of England, the European men's doubles champions, are the No 2 seeds in the World Grand Prix finals which take place next week in Brunei — their last tournament before breaking up their long-lasting partnership.

■ **CYCLING:** Javier Pasqual Rodriguez, of Spain, riding for the Kelme team, won the Tour of Andalucia, which finished in Granada yesterday. The fifth and final stage was won by Tom Steels, of Holland, riding for the Mapei team.

■ **GOLF:** Craig Spence, the Australian Masters champion, fell back to earth yesterday with an opening round of 76 in the Canon Golf Challenge at Terrey Hills, Sydney. Rodney Pampling, of Australia, led with a five-under-par 67. Fêted since his win over Greg Norman last Sunday, Spence admitted that his mind was wandering for much of the front nine.

Robson goes on warpath

■ BRYAN ROBSON, the manager of Middlesbrough, who lost 5-0 away to Everton on Wednesday night, has read the riot act to his underachieving team. Robson's men have taken only two points from their past seven games and Robbie Mustoe, the midfield player, said yesterday: "The boss had a right go at us and some of the players have to look in the mirror. The fans don't deserve this sort of football from their team." Middlesbrough have also been knocked out of the FA Cup during their depressing run, which has seen them slide from fourth place in the FA Carling Premiership table into the bottom half.

■ EVERTON have signed Peter Degn, a Denmark Under-21 midfield player, on a pre-contract from AGF Aarhus. He will join the Goodison Park club at the end of the present season.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

Everton signed David Weir from Heart of Midlothian for £250,000 on Tuesday.

■ SOUTHAMPTON'S plans to give Marian Pahars, their Latvia striker, his debut against Newcastle United at The Dell tomorrow have been held up by problems over his work permit. Pahars, 22, who has scored 11 goals for his country, scored a hat-trick on his first appearance in the reserves while on trial last week.

■ NOTTS COUNTY signed two new forwards yesterday — Peter Beadle and Gerry Creaney — in their bid to avoid being relegated from Nationwide League second division. Beadle has joined from Port Vale for £250,000, while Creaney, formerly with Manchester City, cost nothing.

■ PAUL HALL, the Coventry City and Jamaica winger, has joined Bury, who are struggling in the first division, on a month's loan. Hall, 26, a £300,000 signing from Portsmouth, has failed to establish himself in the first team at Highfield Road.

■ THE Football League appeals committee has ruled that Huddersfield Town must pay Hartlepool IUnited £65,000 for Chris Beech, the midfield player. Hartlepool, who had sought £250,000, will receive a further £15,000 after 20 appearances and £15,000 more after 40.

■ ROBERT FLECK, the former Scotland forward international, has retired from football because of a back injury. The forward, 33, made four full international appearances for Scotland. He joined Reading from Norwich City a year ago, but made just ten appearances for the club.

Wark joins Woodbridge

Non-League Football
by Walter Gammie

JOHN WARK, the former Ipswich Town and Liverpool player, will line up for Woodbridge Town in their FA Carlsberg Vase quarter-final against Thame United tomorrow.

Wark and Paul Mason, another former Ipswich player, were registered by the Jewson Eastern Counties League club last week to beat the Vase deadline, but have yet to appear for them.

Keith Dixon, the Woodbridge chairman, said: "It's put a bit of a buzz round the town. They say there are no principles in football today. I'm afraid I'm a bit of a principle man and if Dave Hubbick, the manager, had dropped two players regularly in the side, I would have disagreed with it. What he's doing is replacing two players not available and I'm happy to support the manager's decision."

As a keeper of the club's conscience, Dixon fits the bill. His involvement stretches back 51 years, playing 26 seasons as a centre half into his mid-40s as well as taking on the mantle of chairman 30 years ago.

Gary Barker, the assistant manager, said: "We lost a striker who joined Wisbech Town and another player with a knee ligament injury. John Wark has been playing on Sundays with a side called Windsor. It's very local and we know everybody quite well. We've got good connections with Ipswich Town and they have just released Paul Mason. There were a lot of other clubs in the area who are interested and we got in just in time."

The presence of Wark, 41, and Mason, combined with that of Barker, Hubbick and Dean Garnham, the goalkeeper, who all played for Sudbury Town in the Vase final in 1989, will help to ease nerves in the camp. Barker said: "I think John finished professional football over a year ago, but he's been keeping himself fit and trains at least once a week with Ipswich.

"Paul's match-fitness will obviously be greater, but everybody knows about their quality and I think we will all benefit from their experience."

Two clubs who lost at Wembley are still in the hunt. Taunton Town, beaten in 1994, take on Lymington and New Milton, while Clitheroe, who lost 3-0 to Briggtown in 1996, meet Tiverton Town, the holders. Clitheroe, with four Wembley survivors, have seen their form pick up since Steve Parry was appointed manager last November. Their defence, led by Gary Rishton, has not conceded a goal in four Vase ties.

The remaining quarter-final pits Bedlington Terriers, FA Cup sensations when they beat Colchester United earlier this season, against Workington, who include Paul Stewart.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle Eagles 89 Thames Valley Tigers 97; Greater London Leopards 86 Chester Jets 85; Milton Keynes Lions 73 Edinburgh Rocks 83.
UNI-BALL TROPHY: *Semi-final, second leg:* Manchester Giants 93 Sheffield Sharks 88 (Manchester win 174-165 on agg)
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Detroit 80 Miami 91, Orlando 96 Washington 85, Minnesota 116 Houston 102; Milwaukee 91 Chicago 83; San Antonio 76 Phoenix 79; Vancouver 129 Boston 131 (OT), Portland 100 Denver 85; Seattle 108 Sacramento 109 (OT); Golden State 96 Charlotte 87. Los Angeles Lakers 101 Dallas 88.

BOWLS

CYPHERS: English Bowls Players Association: Singles championship: Regional play-offs (fourth-round winners qualify for national finals): **Third round:** P Butcher bt D Hanmore 7-3, 7-3, C Ashby bt J Gale 7-5, 7-1, D Banfield bt J Holmes 7-6, 7-1; M Sekjer bt D Ovelt 7-4, 7-3. **Fourth round:** Butcher bt Ashby 7-1, 4-7, 7-3; Sekjer bt Banfield 7-4, 7-4

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Kitzbühel	90	192	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	18/2
Obergurgl	75	285	Good	Open	Heavy	Snow	-5	18/2
Söll	110	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	18/2
St Anton	140	460	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	18/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	149	300	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	1	18/2
Argentiere	120	320	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	18/2
Avoriaz	210	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	18/2
Flaine	260	500	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	18/2
La Clusaz	140	260	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	1	18/2
La Plagne	150	260	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-7	18/2
La Tania	174	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	18/2
Les Arcs	176	285	Good	Open	Heavy	Snow	0	18/2
Megève	190	290	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	18/2
Méribel	100	255	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	18/2
Tignes	145	280	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-8	18/2
Val Thorens	180	270	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-7	18/2
Val d'Isère	180	310	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-7	18/2
Italy								
Cervinia	80	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-6	18/2
Cortina	55	70	Fair	Open	Varied	Snow	-7	18/2
Livigno	75	185	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-6	18/2
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	130	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	18/2
Davos	175	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	18/2
Grindelwald	100	270	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	18/2
Klosters	140	250	Good	Closed	Powder	Snow	0	18/2
Saas Fee	90	345	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-1	18/2
St Moritz	70	150	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	18/2
Verbier	100	290	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	-3	18/2
Villars	120	240	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	18/2
Wengen	140	210	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	18/2
Zermatt	65	200	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	18/2
United States								
Aspen	120	148	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-5	17/2
Deer Valley	223	240	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-5	11/2

http://www.skiclub.co.uk   L = lower slopes, U = upper slopes

CRICKET

One-day international

Zimbabwe A v England A

HARARE (England A won toss): England A beat Zimbabwe A by four wickets (D/L method)

ZIMBABWE A

R W Price b Cosker	35
C B Wishart c Read b Betts	7
D P Viljoen c Flintoff b Franks	14
*G J Whittall c Vaughan b Flintoff	0
S V Carlisle c Read b Franks	9
J M Oates c Read b Harmison	13
C N Evans c Flintoff b Cosker	15
G B Brent c Flintoff b Franks	8
A M Blignaut c Maddy b Harmison	0
† B D Moore-Gordon c Vaughan b Franks	18
B T Watambwa not out	6
Extras (lb 7, w 19, nb 3)	29
Total (46.1 overs)	154

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-54, 3-56, 4-71, 5-81, 6-111, 7-112, 8-112, 9-130
BOWLING: Betts 9-0-35-1; Harmison 10-0-23-2; Flintoff 5-0-18-1; Franks 9.1-1-34-4; Cosker 10-2-29-2; Maddy 3-1-8-0

ENGLAND A

D L Maddy b Blignaut	16
M B Loye c Moore-Gordan b Blignaut	8
A Flintoff c Blignaut b Watambwa	8
V S Solanki b Brent	29
M G N Windows run out	19
*M P Vaughan not out	43
P J Franks c Viljoen b Brent	1
† C M W Read not out	17
Extras (lb 3, w 4, nb 8)	15
Total (6 wkts, 39.1 overs)	154

D A Cosker, M N Betts and S J Harmison did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-30, 3-33, 4-89, 5-95, 6-111
BOWLING: Blignaut 10-2-56-2; Watambwa 8.1-3-45-1; Whittall 6-0-14-0; Price 4-1-8-0; Brent 10-1-21-2; Evans 1-0-7-0
Umpires: K Barber and J Fenwick.

International match

New Zealand Under-19 v England Under-19

ALEXANDRA (first day of four; England Under-19 won toss): England Under-19 have scored 272 for seven wickets against New Zealand Under-19

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First innings

*M A Gough b Gillespie	10
I N Flanagan c Martin b Franklin	17
I R Bell st McGlashan b Martin	115
M A Carberry c McGlashan b Shaw	4
R K J Dawson c McGlashan b Franklin	19
M P Bulbeck b Martin	13
M J Symington not out	39
J P Tucker b Jansen	26
R J Logan not out	2
Extras (lb 6, w 7, nb 14)	27
Total (7 wkts)	272

G Bridge and † M A Wallace to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-36, 3-58, 4-131, 5-165, 6-218, 7-260
BOWLING: Shaw 15-5-35-1; Gillespie 18-5-73-1, Franklin 17-3-35-2, McNamee 4-1-11-0; Martin 28-10-46-2; Jensen 24-8-66-1
NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19: *J Englefield, M Gillespie, J Franklin, B Jansen, †P McGlashan, T McIntosh, J McNamee, B Martin, M Papps, B Patton, H Shaw.
Umpires: R Murdoch and G Stewart.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa 1 Leeds 2; Chelsea 1 Blackburn 1; Everton 5 Middlesbrough 0; Manchester Utd 1 Arsenal 1; Newcastle 4 Coventry 1
WORTHINGTON CUP: *Semi-final, second leg:* Leicester 1 Sunderland 1 (Leicester win 3-2 on agg)
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Celtic 1 Kilmarnock 0.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Partick 0 Stirling 1
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Dr Martens FL 3 Hellenic League 0.
RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Braintree 0 Leatherhead 0.
WELSH CUP: *Fourth-round replay:* Pontardawe Town 0 Inter Cable-Tel 3.
ITALIAN CUP: *Semi-final, first leg:* Internazionale 0 Parma 2.
SPANISH CUP: *Quarter-finals, first leg:* Atlético Madrid 2 Español 1, Real Mallorca 1 Deportivo La Coruña 1; Racing Santander 2 Real Madrid 6

GOLF

QATAR MASTERS: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **133:** P Lawrie 68, 65. **135:** S Kjeldsen (Den) 70, 65; J Bickerton 68, 67. J Van de Velde (Fr) 69, 66. **136:** R Russell 66, 70. **137:** R May (US) 67, 70; S Gallacher 69, 68. **138:** J Spence 71, 67; Kang Wook-soon (S Kor) 71, 67, P Price 70, 68, I Woosnam 68, 70, P Nyman (Swe) 68, 70; M James 67, 71, A Cejka (Ger) 69, 69, C Hanell (Swe) 71, 67.

HOCKEY

INTERNATIONAL MATCH (in Karachi) Pakistan 4 India 2 (Pakistan lead nine-match series 5-1).

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Sheffield Steelers 4 Ayr Scottish Eagles 3 (OT)
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 2 Toronto 3 (OT); Detroit 3 San Jose 1, New Jersey 7 Tampa Bay 1; New York Islanders 3 Pittsburgh 1, New York Rangers 3 Montreal 6, Chicago 4 Vancouver 0, Dallas 2 Florida 1. Anaheim 2 Edmonton 6

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Blackheath 41 Army 17

SAILING

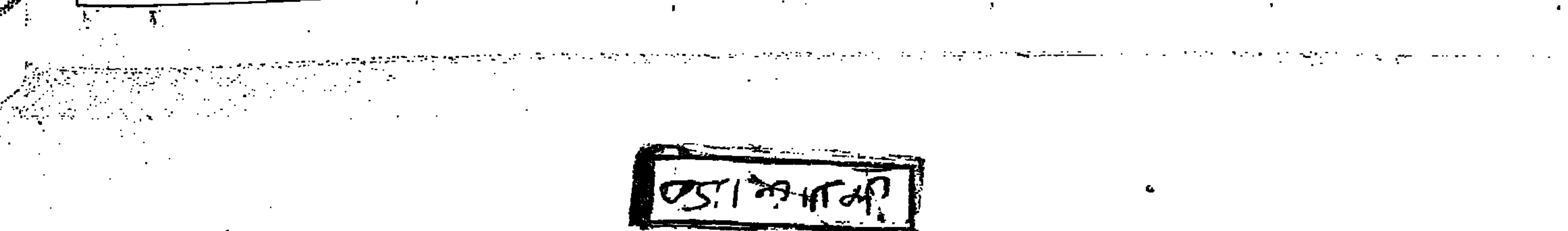
CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 3a (Hawaii to Yokohama, with miles to finish): 1, Ariel (A Thomson) 463; 2, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 492; 3, Senca (R Dean) 515; 4, Thermopylae (M Tod) 544; 5, Antiope (K Harris) 606, 6, Mermerus (B Sollars) 840; 7, Taeping (N Fleming) 1,637.

SNOOKER

ABERDEEN: Scottish Open (England unless stated): **Second round:** S Lee bt P Davies (Wales) 5-2; P Hunter bt R O'Sullivan 5-3, M Williams (Wales) bt D Dale (Wales) 5-1; D Harold bt N Bond 5-1, J Burnett (Scot) bt A Hamilton 5-4; M Stevens (Wales) bt K Broughton 5-4; P Ebdon bt J White 5-3 **Third round:** Lee bt Ebdon 5-0; Williams bt Stevens 5-4; G Dott (Scot) bt J Parrott 5-4; Hunter bt Burnett 5-4

TENNIS

ROTTERDAM: Indoor tournament: **First round:** R Krajicek (Holl) bt M Rosset (Switz) 6-3, 7-5. **Second round:** T Henman (GB) bt P Korda (Cz) 6-3, 6-4, W Ferreira (SA) bt J Golmard (Fr) 5-7, 6-3, 7-6; M Safin (Russ) bt D Hrbaty (Slovakia) 7-6, 5-7, 6-3; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt H Arazi (Mor) 6-1, 6-2. G Rusedski (GB) bt E Kempes (Holl) 6-1, 6-4
HANOVER: WTA tournament: **First round:** N Tauziat (Fr) bt N Dechy (Fr) 6-3, 6-7, 6-3 **Second round:** J Novotna (Cz) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-3, 6-3, B Rittner (Ger) bt S Farina (It) 6-2, ret. E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt P Schnyder (Switz) 7-5, 6-3; M Oremans (Holl) bt Tauziat 6-4, 6-4 **Quarter-final:** S Graf (Ger) bt B Schett (Austria) 6-3, 6-2



SNOOKER

Suffering Williams maintains healthy interest

By Phil Yates

MARK WILLIAMS maintained hope of emulating Steve Davis and Stephen Hendry as only the third player to triumph in three consecutive world ranking events when he advanced to the quarter-finals of the Scottish Open at Aberdeen yesterday.

Williams, winner of the Irish Open in December and the Welsh Open last month, extended his unbeaten run in ranking tournaments to 14 matches with a 5-4 victory over Matthew Stevens, a team-mate when Wales won the Nations Cup five weeks ago.

"I don't know how I'm still here," Williams, who is suffering from a chest infection, said. "I suppose winning becomes a habit, but I thought a few times today that the sequence was going to end. Matthew had his chances."

Stevens, who was runner-up to John Higgins at the United Kingdom championship, recovered from being 64-0 adrift to steal the second frame on the black and also salvaged the third from a seemingly hopeless position.

Williams, 53-0 up, missed a routine black off its spot, then, after needing a snooker on the last red, Stevens cleared with 35 to again achieve an unlikely success on the black.

When Williams arrived at the mid-session interval trailing 3-1, he looked decidedly vulnerable. By winning three of the following four frames, Williams carried the gripping match its full distance, but Stevens, who trounced him 9-1 at the corresponding stage of the 1997 United Kingdom championship, found himself presented with a golden opportunity in the decider.

However, on 29 and with the balls spread invitingly, he unluckily snookered himself on the pink. A nervy exchange ensued before Williams produced a 41 clearance after trapping Stevens in a fiendish snooker with four reds remaining. He now meets Fergal O'Brien or Ken Doherty.

Paul Hunter, the second-round conqueror of Ronnie O'Sullivan, the holder, staved off a spirited fightback from Jamie Burnett to edge through 5-4. There was a 5-4 win, too, for Graeme Dott, 21, from Glasgow, who was two frames down with three to play against John Parrott.

Peter Ebdon, who laboured to beat Jimmy White 5-3 late on Wednesday night, was a spent force against Stephen Lee and was whitewashed 5-0.

TENNIS: BRITON BREEZES THROUGH TO JOIN HENMAN IN QUARTER-FINALS

Untroubled Rusedski romps into last eight

From Julian Muscat
Tennis Correspondent
in Rotterdam

IT WAS as facile a victory as any posted by Greg Rusedski in his professional career. Edwin Kempes, a wild-card entrant from Holland, was overwhelmed by the Briton's service as he succumbed 6-1, 6-4 in the indoor tournament here yesterday

Kempes, ranked No 174 in the world, barely offered Rusedski a meaningful practice session. This was the first time that he had faced an opponent of the calibre of the No 5 seed and it showed. He was hopelessly sucked into the slipstream of Rusedski's searing power.

Still, the exercise can only have bolstered Rusedski's confidence as he progressed to the quarter-finals, joining Tim Henman, who today meets either Fabrice Santoro or Karol Kucera. Rusedski dished up 12 aces, many of them at three-quarter speed. "I really didn't feel I could lose my serve today," he said. "It is nice to get a win like that."

Kempes, 22, had one previous victory on the ATP tour to his name, a first-round defeat of Jan Kroslak, a qualifier from Slovakia. Victory levelled Rusedski's seasonal record to 4-4 and marked the first time this year that he has won back-to-back matches. So bemused was Kempes that he could earn just seven points against service in the match.

Rusedski, ensconced in the bottom half of the draw, faces a tall order if he is to reach his first final of the year. He next faces the winner between Cedric Pioline and Richard Krajicek, the No 4 seed, who met late last night. Also lurking in the lower section is Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the No 2 seed, who overwhelmed Hicham Arazi 6-1, 6-2.

This carpet surface proved all too quick for Arazi, whose shot-making skills were negated by the force of the Russian's hitting. Arazi is easily demoralised and Kafelnikov, the arch tactician, quickly had the Moroccan wishing that he was anywhere else but opposite the recently crowned Australian Open champion.

Kafelnikov, the No 2 seed, today faces Roger Federer, of Switzerland, for a semi-final place. A former junior world champion, Federer is on the learning curve. It hardly comes any steeper than Kafelnikov, who knows better than most how to convert hard experience into winning currency.

Marat Safin fired the imagination when downing Andre Agassi and Gustavo Kuerten before stretching Pioline to five sets in the fourth round of the French Open last year. A compatriot of Kafelnikov, Safin, 19, has since reached the fourth round at the US Open before succumbing to Pete Sampras.

Safin, world-ranked No 39, has opened 1999 with a show of intent. Although the big-hitting teenager remains raw around the edges, his rate of progress has impressed. He held his nerve to dismiss Alex Corretja, the No 1 seed, in the first round and yesterday advanced to the quarter-finals after a dour 7-6, 5-7, 6-3 victory over Dominik Hrbaty, of Slovakia.

There is a sense of inner turmoil whenever Safin takes to the court. He regularly raises his arms in frustration, often scolding himself for failing to maintain a brilliant standard. He is thus unduly hard on himself. "I thought I was going to lose that match," Safin said. "In the second set, I was playing my best tennis and I was losing. It came as a shock to me."

Safin required six match points before felling Corretja. He needed three more against Hrbaty and that detail, he maintained, marked the difference between the Challenger circuit and the ATP tour. "It is a different mentality," he said. "Players fight for every ball on the tour. They play the important points much better. In Challengers, they sometimes lose matches in their heads. They can be very weak."

Safin plays Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, today for a semi-final place after the latter accounted for Jérôme Golmárd, of France, in an attractive match.

Ferreira edged through 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 to snap a six-match winning streak for Golmárd and will be the first serve-and-volley opponent that Safin has faced in this tournament. "I can play on this surface against other baseliners because I feel comfortable against them," Safin said. "How I will cope against Ferreira, I just don't know."

FRED ERNST



Rusedski sends down another powerful service on his way to victory over Kempes yesterday



WEBSITE: www.atptour.com

TELEVISION: Eurosport, 2.00pm (live)

ATHLETICS

Britain waits on Wembley

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

GREAT Britain's bid to stage the world athletics championships at Wembley in 2003 faces mounting uncertainty as time is running short to get the stadium ready.

The bid may find it difficult to meet the tight presentation deadline if there is any further delay in the sale of Wembley Stadium to the English National Stadium Development Company (ENSDC).

The International Amateur Athletic Federation has indicated to UK Athletics (UKA) that a decision on the 2003 venue will be taken by November at the latest. However, UKA is unlikely to be able to guarantee to the federation that Wembley will be ready unless the sale is completed next month. Yesterday, Bob Stubbs, the chief executive of ENSDC, put pressure on the board of Wembley plc to complete the sale, which goes before shareholders next month.

On Wednesday, Wembley received a bid approach from SFX, an American leisure group, in a perceived attempt to rescue the non-executive directors who are seeking to block the £103 million sale to the development company, a joint venture between the English Sports Council and the Football Association. The stadium is expected to take three years to build.

"March 15 is our drop-dead date," Stubbs said. "We expect the deal to be done by then. If it is not, then probably we will walk away.

"That means no World Cup at Wembley, no world athletics championships and, after 2002, when the existing contract expires, no FA events. This is not an idle threat."

"Providing the application is in by early to mid-summer, the 2003 deadline should be met," Geoff Raw, Brent Council's Wembley project co-ordinator, said.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League
First division
Sheffield Utd v Bradford (7.45)
Third division
Cardiff v Halifax

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Leigh RMI v Runcorn

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North East Conference: Huddersfield v Grimsby (1.0); York v Halifax (12.0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Caersws; Carmarthen Town v Rhayader Town (2.30)

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: St Patrick's Athletic v Dundalk (7.45), Shamrock v Bray (7.45).

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Nottingham Forest v Leeds (1.30); West Ham v Tottenham (1.30)

RUGBY UNION

A international matches
England v Scotland (at Leeds, 7.30)
Wales v Ireland (at Ebbw Vale, 7.0)

Under-21 international matches
England v Scotland (at Orrell, 7.30)
Wales v Ireland (at Caerphilly, 2.30)

CLUB MATCHES: Oxford University v Penguins (7.15), Worcester v Melrose (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Manchester Storm v Bracknell Bees (7.0)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

GRISAILLE
(c) Painting in several shades and intensities of grey or stone-colour. Painting en Grisaille is to be found on porcelain and also as trompe l'oeil wall painting imitating bas reliefs in stone. Grisaille was especially popular in the early 17th century.

ELEMI
(b) A fragrant gum yielding a resinoid and oil, obtained from Canarium and Proteum trees, common in the Philippines, Java and the West Indies. The gum may be powdered and used in pomander or as a fixative in sachets. Some is used in incense.

MANDELION
(b) A towel that is placed over a bishop's arm in order to protect the vestments when he is invested for the consecration of a church. Also a towel on the left shoulder of sub-deacon for the bishop to dry his hands on after washing in the Great Entrance.

SHIFRA
(b) A Jewish journal launched in 1983 to provide a forum for women to discuss their experiences. It was named after a Jewish woman murdered by the Nazis in 1943. It was her name, and not that of her father or husband.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Rg7+! Rxg7 (1 ... Kh8 2 Qh6) 2 Qxb6 and White wins easily on material

TELEVISION CHOICE

Titchmarsh television

Gardeners' World
BBC2, 8.30pm

Alan Titchmarsh fans can now enjoy a full hour of him on Friday evenings, with *Ground Force* playing on BBC1 at 8pm and *Gardeners' World* coming up immediately afterwards on BBC2. But the frenetic makeover antics of *Ground Force* are not to all tastes and traditionalists may prefer to stick with the programme which was launched back in the 1960s by the legendary Percy Thrower and tonight begins its thirtieth series. The main ingredients of *Gardeners' World*, practical advice interspersed with garden visits, have been reassuringly retained, as has the resident team in which Titchmarsh is joined by Pippa Greenwood, Gay Search and Stephen Lacey. A feature of the new series will be a look at the garden of the future.

Country House
BBC2, 7.30pm

In its quiet, understated way the series about Woburn Abbey continues to come up with the unexpected. Lady Tavistock, mistress of the estate, is being measured. Not for some ballgown, as you might think, but for her coffin. It is not that she is about to depart this world, just that she likes being prepared. In any case the casket can be used to store her tapestry wool. Lord Tavistock's reaction is worth every second of the footage devoted to it. Lady T has already planned her funeral, knowing how irritated she would be if the wrong hymn were sung. Whether the Tavistocks will still be at Woburn by then seems uncertain. They would like to pass it over to their son, Andrew, alias Lord Howland. Mum insists that he should be married and have children first but he is approaching 36 and he shows no sign of doing either.

Heligan — The Return
Channel 4, 8.00pm

A previous Channel 4 series charted the discovery and reconstruction of the Cornish garden which had been abandoned after the First World War and left to grow wild. Heligan may be a "lost" garden no longer but the work goes on and four new programmes update the story. The material may be less compelling than before, when we were able to witness the dramatic transformation of an impenetrable jungle. There is drama, however, even in such seemingly straightforward projects as the restoration of the summerhouse garden. High up on an exposed site, it is the oldest part of the Heligan garden and offers the only view to the sea. But the attempt to secure that view by cutting "windows" in the surrounding hedge incurs the displeasure of Dominic Cole, Heligan's historical adviser.

Dawn French and Joanna Scanlan star in *Murder Most Horrid* (BBC2, 9pm)

Murder Most Horrid
BBC2, 9.00pm

Dawn French returns to play a new selection of characters in the fourth series of black comedies with murder at their heart. Tonight's dark and enjoyably preposterous tale is penned by Nick Vivian and set in an English village during postwar austerity. French and Joanna Scanlan play sisters who look suspiciously plump and well fed considering that food is so strictly rationed. Their secret lies in a huge freezer, which contains pies and other filling meals baked by their late mother. But the machine unobligingly goes on the blink, the repairman meets an unorthodox end and the sisters are faced with that common dilemma of macabre comedy, how to dispose of a dead body. There is even more to Vivian's ingenious script which displays not only a sharp and subversive humour but a welcome return to coherent plotting. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

The Sunday Format
Radio 4, 6.30pm

The fact that *The Sunday Format* is being transmitted on a Friday is part of the joke and the joke is on newspapers: oh well, we can take it and of course imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, though nothing in the show carries any echoes of anything in *The Times*. Hopefully. This new series is described as radio's first quality weekend newspaper and will have the usual plethora of features, including *My First Shoes* and *An Airing Cupboard of My Own*. Lest *The Sunday Format* rings a small bell, it appeared as a one-off two years ago and it comes from the stable that produced the brilliant *People Like Us*, in particular writer John Morton. Rebecca and Simon Greenhall are in the cast.

Changing Places: From Grey to Green
Radio 4, 3.00pm

Urban renewal is a phrase oft on the lips of politicians at both national and local level, though all too little of it actually happens once the cost is counted. Most of us know of urban sites that have sat crumbling for years without any sign of movement on the part of the planners. But there are exceptions, ranging from proper renewal in the sense of bringing life back to the inner city, to more esoteric uses of derelict space. This programme looks at three inner-city projects — in Newcastle, Lincoln and Leeds — which have had great success in greening areas previously gone to grey. I especially like the Liquorice Millennium Green in Lincoln, so named because the area was a liquorice factory in the last century. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Mark Goodier **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show **2.00am** Fabio and Grooverider **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Richard Littlejohn **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Des Lynam **7.00** Morley at the Musicals (3/6) **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **9.15** Frankenstein (6/6) **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** David Jacobs **11.00** Believe It or Not (4/4) **12.00am** Lynn Parsons **4.00** Lata Sharma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Brian Moore's Sportsnight. Brian Moore with special guest, the new England manager, Kevin Keegan, look back at the week's sporting action **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** OK! to Talk **5.00** The SportZone **8.00** Jackie Mason Live from New York **10.00** Dave Barrett **1.00am** Mike Dickin

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **7.00** Wheels of Steel **11.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** Steve Power

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.35** Science in Action **9.00** World News **9.05** The Art of Translating **9.20** John Peel **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Your Questions Of Faith **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Focus on Faith **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Science in Action **2.30** Best on Record **3.00** World News **3.05** Football Extra **3.15** Performance **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Alternative **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.00** World News **7.05** Science in Action **7.30** Your Question Of Faith **7.45** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Best on Record **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Alternative **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Science in Action **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Books **2.00** The World Today **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.30** Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Music to get the day off to a fine start **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour. Plus, favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays favourite music **2.00** Concerto. Molter (Clarinet Concerto No 1 in A major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news **6.30** Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Holst (St Paul's Suite No 2); Delius (Two Pieces for Cello and Chamber Orchestra; Violin Concerto); Holst (The Planets) **11.00** Michael Mappin. Music through the wee small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Molter (Clarinet Concerto No 1 in A major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a preview of a new exhibition in Glasgow of the work of architect and designer Frank Lloyd Wright
9.00 Masterworks With Peter Hobday. Barber (Essay No 1); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 23 in A, K488); Barber (String Quartet); Bach (Cantata No 147: Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Raphael Wallfisch
11.00 Sound Stories: Exiles Donald Macleod explores exile in the life of Alexander Solzhenitsyn
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Dvorak
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert A clarinet and piano recital given in Belfast's Waterfront Hall by Romain Guyot, and Philippe Cassard. Martinu (Sonatina); Schubert, arr Guyot (Arpeggione Sonata); Schumann (Fantasiestucke, Op 73); Poulenc (Clarinet Sonata) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth, Julian Rachlin, violin. Haydn (Symphony No 4 in D); Brahms (Violin Concerto in D); Shostakovich (Symphony No 10)
4.00 Music Restored Lucie Skeaping introduces a concert given last summer in the Hall of Mirrors in Rheinsberg Castle by Europa Galante
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty explores Delius's opera *The Magic Fountain*, which receives its stage premiere in Scotland tomorrow
7.30 Performance on 3 A performance from last year's 1998 Edinburgh International Festival celebrating the music of Sir Donald Francis Tovey. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins, Mats Lidstrom, cello, Richard Goode and Andras Schiff, piano duet, Steven Osborne, piano. Tovey (Cello Concerto; Balliol Dances; Piano Concerto)
9.35 Postscript: Aria (5/5) (r)
10.00 Hear and Now (Sounding the Century) In a concert given on Monday in Broadcasting House, London, Stefan Asbury conducts Ensemble Corrente in a programme of music by Western composers looking east
11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) Russell Davies presents a 52-part history of jazz (r)
12.00am Composer of the Week: Telemann (r)
1.00 Through the Night Includes **1.00** Mozart (La Clemenza di Tito) **2.30** Mieick (String Quintet, Op 3) **2.55** Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3) **3.30** J.C. Bach (Cantata: Meine Freundin, du bist Schon) **3.50** Mozart (Divertimento, K205) **4.10** Shostakovich (Cello Sonata, Op 40) **4.35** Stravinsky (Symphony of Psalms)

RADIO 4

5.35am Shipping Forecast **5.40 Inshore Forecast**
5.45 Prayer for the Day **5.47 Farming Today**
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Edward Stourton
9.00 Desert Island Discs The Romanian poet Nina Cassian is Sue Lawley's castaway (r)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Planet of the Blind Final part. Stephen Kuusisto accepts his condition, and takes delivery of a guide dog (r)
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray
11.00 Chuffed A landfill site is blocking plans to extend the Bluebell Steam Railway in East Sussex — can the enthusiasts find a way round it?
11.30 Sunny Side Up The quartet struggle to find a lead singer. By Scott Cherry, starring Keith Barron, Bryan Pringle and Clive Swift (2/6)
12.00pm (FM) News **12.04 You and Yours** Consumer issues and public service reports
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
1.00 The World at One with James Cox
1.30 Puzzle Panel Chris Maslanka presents riddles and brain-teasers
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Larkrise and Beyond Second part of Flora Thompson's evocation of late 19th-century country life. With Maggie Steed, Lexi Rose and Lewis Dodge
3.00 Changing Places Howard Stableford investigates land reclamation schemes. See Choice (2/5)
3.30 Science in the Attic Profile of plumber Steve Etches, who moonlights as an amateur palaeontologist and has made many important discoveries. Last in series (5/5) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Part 35 of the history of Britain, narrated by Anna Massey
4.00 Writer's Masterclass Blake Morrison offers practical tips and reveals trade secrets in writing (r)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Sunday Format New series. John Morton's comedy about the stories generated by a fictitious weekend newspaper See Choice (1/4)
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the arts programme, looking at the troubled life of the composer Frederick Delius
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Environmental drama, by Tim Jackson. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Any Questions? From Westminster Cathedral Hall, London. Jonathan Dimbleby is joined by guests including David Elstein, Controller of Channel 5, and Nick Soames, MP
8.45 Letter from America Alistair Cooke with another slice of Stateside life
9.00 The Friday Play: Glass Fact-based drama by Lesley Bruce, about Benjamin Franklin's invention of the glass harmonica. Adam Godley and Nicholas Farrell star
10.00 The World Tonight Robin Lustig presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Captain Part five of Patrick O'Brien's nautical novel
11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Oldroyd and guests are in Dublin ahead of the rugby union Five Nations match
11.30 Front Page Sport Rob Bonnet examines claims of Italian foul play in the controversial long-jump event of the 1987 World Athletics Championships
12.00am News **12.30 The Late Book: All Points North** The poet Simon Armitage reads the final excerpt from his wry and witty reports on life in his home village of Marsden, West Yorkshire (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Has BBC scriptwriting finally lost the plot?

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

BBC1 chose to launch two heart-warming ensemble-cast 50-minute series last night. There is probably some Machiavellian corporate reason for this. I suspect they may be conducting a controlled test on genetically modified drama.

The second series of Kay Mellor's *Playing The Field* clashed with ITV's faction *The Murder of Stephen Lawrence* (of which more on another occasion). The cast includes Ricky Tomlinson, the rough-and-ready Scouse bear who has appeared in some of the strongest television drama of recent years including *The Boys from the Blackstuff*, early *Brookside*, *Riff Raff* and *The Royle Family*.

I caught him on Monday in a short tribute to the director Ken Loach shown on the FilmFour subscription channel. Tomlinson was celebrating Loach's originality, his vision, his unorthodox approach to casting and his burning social commitment. The BBC that launched Loach's career was full of challenging new drama by challenging new writers and directors. It was part of the public service brief.

In line with *Nineties American* management theory, though not sadly with the BBC today, the BBC of the Sixties was not afraid to risk failure. Kay Mellor came on Radio 4's *Front Row* on Wednesday to discuss the work of a contemporary television writer. Even the "creator" of a successful series, it seems, ends up as an artist's studio dogsbody, colouring in outlines which have been designed, not by a master, but by a committee.

She was too diplomatic to say so, but it must be frustrating. What kind of "writing" is it when you have no control of the plot? When your cherished original idea falls into the hands of the corporate gauleiters? It is, of course, a form of quality control, playing safe, placating the focus groups, not rocking the ratings. It can lead to a form of "blanding down" as insidious in its way as "dumbing down" or "sexing up". Last night's new shows displayed the gamut of this *system's potential* from *J* to *Q* — that is from really rather dismal to really quite good.

Harbour Lights (BBC1) put that nice Nick Berry from *Heartbeat* as harbour-master of a nice old fishing town called Bridehaven, a nice old English made-up name in the tradition of Melchester in *Roy of the Rovers*.

The title sequence, a flashback to the death of Berry's best friend during a tempestuous diving accident, suggested that tragedy could be on the menu. But this was quickly dispelled when we discovered that Bridehaven is, for some unexplained reason, inhabited almost entirely by loveable Cockneys.

Otherwise this was England-land, that comforting recreation of an old-fashioned vision of our past. Even the black cafe owner, Elvis, sounded as if he was about to burst into a cheery calypso at any moment. We began with a Cook's tour of the characters, all of whom turned out to be rather dull, spoke wooden dialogue, and lived in dull homes.

Then the empty yacht of the *local fertiliser salesman drifted* past the harbour. A tragic mystery, perhaps, like the *Mary Celeste* or the madness of Donald Crowhurst. My theory was that he had jumped overboard rather than return to that boring town.

In the event this proved to be one of those light-hearted stories about a loveable bigamist with a heart of gold, running away from his responsibilities. When he returned everyone decided that they loved him the way he was, although he did have to give up his girlfriend, as the wives wouldn't put up with a bit on the side.

Call me old-fashioned, but I think he should have been jailed for wearing an offensive pullover. I suspect this was the BBC's GM controlled test and has an added interest-repellent gene. Doubtless it will prove compulsive viewing for some, much in the way some people get addicted to plastic pots containing hydrogenated pasta *snacks*.

Playing the Field (BBC1) is set in the South Yorkshire town of Castlefield, just up the M1 from Derceister and Nottby presumably. Apart from the name, it has little in common with *Harbour Lights*, however. Two of the cast, John Thomson and James Nesbitt, starred in *Cold Feet*. The two shows share many virtues.

If *Cold Feet* was a sitcom that shaded off into a straight drama, *Playing the Field* is a straight drama teetering on the edge of sitcom. As with *Cold Feet* the humour is understated and deftly applied. The editing and direction are fast and witty, the dialogue sharp, lively and convincing. Above all, the characters are engaging, funny, sympathetic, alive.

I missed the first series, and had to work quite hard sorting out who was who among the women's football club and their male *appendages*. *Some of the women*, it would seem, have also had this problem. At Rita's 40th birthday bash, the husbands did the by-now obligatory *Full Monty* turn, but last night's opener shared that film's wistful but piquant humanity. *Perhaps this was because it* was written by Kay Mellor herself. I hope the other writers have coloured in the outlines as brightly.

Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age (BBC2) wallows in a different aspect of nostalgia, but unlike *Harbour Lights* it is based on something real. Dibnah is famous for demolishing factory chimneys, but his real love is restoring old machinery and he has become a national expert on the contraptions that once made Britain great.

He is a bit of a professional character, but I can forgive him anything for that Lancashire accent, where machines are "the wuckoarse of Industrial Revolution" and you can "demonsterate" how the "woal building turrned" before "the workses closed."

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (70839)
7.00 Breakfast News (T) (48838)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8887093)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4120068)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (6358432)
11.00 Change That (6375109)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6272068)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1455155)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (19277)
12.30 Wipeout (6562677)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48091819)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (45797)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47713987)
1.40 Neighbours Joel's triathlon hopes come under threat (T) (25529242)
2.05 Ironside A hit-man plans to sabotage *Ed's spine operation* (r) (3749703)
2.55 Body Spies (5093093)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6916722) **3.45** Spider (2713426) **3.50** Smart on the Road (3878426) **4.05** Rugrats (6098722) **4.30** L & K Friday (5789616) **4.55** Newsround Extra (1212161) **5.10** Blue Peter (6707797)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (142906)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (884)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (364)
7.00 Snapshots Profile of the teenage chart sensation Billie (T) (6971)
7.30 Top of the Pops Includes performances by Lenny Kravitz, Blondie, Blur, Barenaked Ladies, The Moffatts, Next of Kin, UNKLE featuring Ian Brown and Sister Sway (T) (548)
8.00 Ground Force The team renovate a small Alloa garden (2/8) (T) (5819)
8.30 Birds of a Feather Dorien shares her tips for a happy marriage (r) (T) (1426)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (5890)



Oprah Winfrey talks about her latest Hollywood film role (9.30pm)

9.30 Parkinson Oprah Winfrey talks exclusively about the making of her new film Beloved (T) (828074)
10.25 The Star Chamber (1983) FILM Michael Douglas stars as a judge who joins a secret society devoted to taking revenge on criminals beyond the reach of the law. Directed by Peter Hyams (T) (568906)
12.05am The Big End (r) (T) (6728117)
12.35 There Are No Children Here (1993) FILM Drama, starring Oprah Winfrey as a proud single mother struggling to protect her two sons from criminal elements. Anita W. Addison directs (T) (2449778)
2.00 Weather (3695989)
2.05 BBC News 24 (54590001)

WALES

10.25 Just Up Your Street (1/6) (331258) **11.00 FILM: The Star Chamber** (T) (539529) **12.40am The Big End** (r) (T) (8157575) **1.15 FILM: There Are No Children Here** (T) (3641001) **2.35 News Headlines** (T) (4012778) **2.40 BBC News 24** (67295099)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Hairy Jeremy (3971242) **7.05** Teletubbies (6899884) **7.30** Snorks (7673677) **7.50** Short Change (6654971) **8.18** Rewind (9991277) **8.20** Taz-Mania (7833432) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (3812180) **8.50** Hairy Jeremy (3818364) **9.00** Storytime (5637187) **9.10** See You, See Me (4649277) **9.30** Numbertime (1724722) **9.45** Come Outside (1729277) **10.00** Teletubbies (95258) **10.30** Megamaths (7788838) **10.50** Look & Read (7768074) **11.10** Landmarks (7969221) **11.30** English File (8797) **12.00pm** Scene (17819) **12.30** Working Lunch (35703) **1.00** Johnson and Friends (94074109)
1.10 The Travel Hour (r) (9658971)
2.10 Sporting Greats *Bob Champion talks to* Eamonn Holmes (61877180)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3148258)
2.45 Match of Their Day George Graham (9/18) (T) (2513600)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (8852398)
3.30 Awash with Colour (242)
4.00 Kaye Advice for parents (8097093)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6090180)
4.55 Esther Bodyguards (T) (3334161)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (513)
6.00 The Simpsons Homer suffers a heart attack (r) (T) (189703)
6.20 The Simpsons Marge tackles an unscrupulous businessman (r) (T) (190819)
6.45 Robot Wars with Craig Charles and Philippa Forrester (T) (145722)
7.15 Electric Circus (T) (242839)
7.30 CHOICE **Country House** Lady Tavistock causes a stir by announcing that she has arranged to have her coffin made (T) (890)
8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor The health benefits of garlic (T) (6161)
8.30 CHOICE **Gardeners' World** Alan Titchmarsh presents a new series (T) (9068)
9.00 CHOICE **Murder Most Horrid** Two sisters buckle under the strain of postwar rationing when a repairman calls. Joanna Scanlan co-stars (T) (3432)



Sara Cox is a panellist on the irreverent music quiz (9.30pm)

9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks With Sara Cox and Junior Simpson (T) (55567)
10.00 The Young Ones The students attempt to keep warm (r) (T) (18548)
10.30 Newsnight With Kirsty Wark (T) (221432)
11.18 Video Nation Shorts (T) (384890)
11.20 Six Degrees of Separation (1993) FILM Premiere. A con-man climbs the ladder of New York society by posing as actor Sidney Poitier's son. Acclaimed drama based on a true story, starring Will Smith. Directed by Fred Schepisi (T) (531987)
1.05am Later with Jools Holland With Catatonia and James (r) (8168681)
2.05 Weather (3377152) **2.10** Close
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: Design and Technology (98440) **5.00** Close

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (35971)
6.00 GMTV (3367154)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5254819)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11288426)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7857155)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (39529)
12.59 HTV Crimestoppers (48086987)
1.00 WEST: Shortland Street Minnie tells all to Nick (36093)
1.00 WALES: Wish You Were Here? Includes visits to Australia, Mauritius, Ireland and Rhodes (r) (T) (36093)
1.30 Home and Away Concern grows for Joey's mental state (T) (58600)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Sleaze galore in the no-holds-barred chat show from the States (T) (5672258)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (431426)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (4157780)
3.20 HTV News (T) (7307203)
3.25 CITV: Cartoon Time (8759364) **3.40** Animal Stories (2896703) **3.50** Adam's Family Tree (5601258) **4.15** Gladiators: Train 2 Win (182123) **4.45** Comin' Atcha. With Cleopatra (5702567)
5.10 A Country Practice (9010987)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (677797)
6.00 Home and Away Concern grows for Joey's mental state (r) (T) (193744)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (952722)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (347890)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (432)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right Game show (5/16) (T) (4567)
7.30 Coronation Street Natalie demands the truth from Ian (T) (616)
8.00 Airline Katrina gets the result of her cancer scan (7/8) (T) (6667)



Seventies comedy with Harry Peacock and Jamie Beck (8.30pm)

8.30 Days Like These Kitty throws a surprise party to celebrate Eric's birthday (2/13) (T) (2722)
9.00 Britain's Worst Shoppers (T) (2432)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (82154)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (150635)
10.40 Videotech: Brits Winners Special Review of the music ceremony (189906)
11.10 WEST: Live From Amsterdam Arena: Tina Turner in concert (738432)
11.10 WALES: Bob Monkhouse on Campus Comedy at the Oxford Union (T) (738432)
12.10am WEST: Tales from the Darkside A bookmaker takes on a spooky challenge. Danny Aiello stars (6712556)
12.10 WALES: We Can Work It Out Phantom phone calls (6712556)
12.40 Pirate TV Highlights from the boys' adventures (13/13) (5317223)
1.10 Dead Silence (1991) FILM Three women agree to keep quiet about accidentally running down a pedestrian while drink-driving. (8843240)
2.40 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (5355486)
3.10 Baywatch (r) (T) (3889730)
4.00 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (21339)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (91778)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (8329987) **1.00 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (36093) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1423548) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (432155) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (7307203) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (9010987) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (952722) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (150635) **10.40 FILM: Stir Crazy** (94635242) **12.40am FILM: Strays** (T) (806469) **2.15 Box Office America** (1865827) **2.40 SeaQuest 2032** (r) (T) (3497556) **3.35 The Haunted Fishtank** (r) (40977310) **4.00 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (7482556) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (7165485)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (7857155) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (8337906) **1.00 Westcountry Update** (36093) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1423548) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (432155) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (7307203) **5.08 Birthday People** (5032513) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9010987) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (47548) **10.30-10.45 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (141987) **10.45 The Other Side** (3/5) (415093) **11.15 Videotech: Brits Winners Special** (412906) **11.45-12.40 Renegade** (277426)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7857155) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9010987) **6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (47548) **10.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (150635) **10.40 Dream Town** (189906) **11.10-12.40 FILM: Vietnam War Story: The Last Days** (794548) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (91778)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8331722) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8329987) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9010987) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (720074) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (180) **6.30-7.00 Off the Beaten Track** (4/10) (T) (432) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (264529) **10.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (150635) **10.40-12.40 FILM: Twice In a Lifetime** (94635242)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (12743285) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34911180) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast;** Saved by the Bell (29330838) **9.30 Sam and Max** (10920971) **9.55 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension** (T) (10001890) **10.25 Boy Meets World** (T) (57005258) **10.50 Moesha** (r) (T) (50744890) **11.20 Madison** (53019548) **11.45 The Bigger Breakfast** (59029109) **12.00pm Home Improvement** (T) (29310074) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38958161) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34921567) **1.30 Earthscape** (T) (37320971) **1.35 FILM: They Were Not Divided** (T) (80317548) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (81853345) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81865180) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (81861364) **5.00 Planed Plant** (64279155) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (81852616) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (54164838) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16030345) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64362819) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81862093) **8.00 Cefn Gwlad** (T) (64371567) **8.30 Y Clwb Rygbi** (T) (64350074) **9.00 Pawb a'i Farn** (70911677) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (60989884) **10.35 Frasier** (T) (56469722) **11.05 So Graham Norton** (T) (47608890) **11.45 TFI Friday** (32197161) **12.50am 4 Later;** The RuPaul Show (26084310) **1.20 Late Toon: Loves Me Loves Me Not** (37649371) **1.35 The Mod Squad** (55915681) **2.35 Vids** (38345681) **3.05 FILM: El Diablo** (87153643) **4.50 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.35am Rat-a-Tat-Tat (3505797)
5.50 The Magic Roundabout (8614797)
5.55 Sesame Street (3435819)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (31548)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast Saved by the Bell (15451)
9.30 Sam and Max (9116066)
9.55 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension (T) (9297987)
10.25 Boy Meets World (T) (1008451)
10.50 Moesha (r) (T) (2383567)
11.20 Madison (4513105)
11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (8419074)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (32677)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (57971)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (34635)
1.30 Evolution Darwin (90353819)
1.35 Wings of Eagles (1957) FILM Biopic chronicling the life of the First World War pilot Frank "Spig" Wead who turned to screenwriting following an accident. John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara star. Directed by John Ford (T) (38039567)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (838)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (345)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5609426)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (3336529)
5.30 Pet Rescue A puppy with two broken legs is treated (T) (109)
6.00 TFI Friday With Boyzone singer Ronan Keating and *Casualty* actress Claire Goose, plus music by Kula Shaker and Sheryl Crow(T) (38890)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (261797)
7.55 Zoom (T) (267635)
8.00 CHOICE **Heligan: The Return** New series. Update on the restoration project at the famous Cornish gardens (1/4) (T) (8529)
8.30 Brookside (T) (5744)



Rachel (Jennifer Aniston) is caught unawares by Chandler (9pm)

9.00 Friends Chandler catches a glimpse of Rachel in the nude (r) (T) (5600)
9.30 Boyz Unlimited The band tour a series of gay clubs (T) (40635)
10.00 Frasier Niles moves in (T) (82136)
10.30 So Graham Norton (848258)
11.10 King of the Hill Hank attends a lawn-mower convention (T) (502074)
11.40 TFI Friday (r) (619616)
12.45am 4 Later: The RuPaul Show (68407)
1.15 Late Toon: Loves Me Loves Me Not Animation (6713914)
1.30 The Mod Squad Pete's favourite cousin turns to crime in a desperate attempt to win the love of her parents (71846)
2.30 Vids Offbeat video review (r) (42049)
3.00 El Diablo (TVM 1990) FILM A Texas teacher sets out to rescue a pupil who has been abducted by an outlaw. Western comedy, starring Anthony Edwards and Louis Gossett Jr. Directed by Peter Markle (447827)
4.45 Page 73 A dreamer goes on a journey of discovery (r) (1404865)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (6205426)
7.00 WideWorld The education system of an infants' school with an award-winning reputation (r) (T) (6743567)
7.30 Milkshake! (2844221)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (3998093)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4771567)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (4770838)
9.00 Mixing It (r) (T) (4754890)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6841529)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (1841722)
11.10 Leeza (4250345)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4678426)
12.30 Family Affairs The race is on to find Claire (r) (T); 5 News Update (9613600)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (6742838)
1.30 The Roseanne Show (9612971)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5868600)
2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment, 5 News Update (1584180)
3.30 The Spoils of War (1993) FILM A woman moves to New York in search of a better life, secretly hoping for a reconciliation with her ex-husband. With Kate Nelligan. Directed by David Greene (9405242)
5.20 Sunset Beach (r) (T) (7598203)
6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz (6198345)
6.30 Family Affairs (T) (6016797)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5942616)
7.30 Champions of Nature The panda management scheme in China's Wolong Nature Reserve (T) (6118109)
8.00 Was It Good for You? Sunseekers' views on the paradise island resort of Mauritius, including two female graduates and a pair of newlyweds indulging in their dream honeymoon (7/14) (5951364)
8.30 Nick's Quest New series in which the *naturalist Nick Baker encounters some of* the world's most fascinating animals. The first report comes from a remote region of Venezuela, where the world's largest anaconda snakes are tracked (1/8), 5 News Update (5867971)
9.00 Lady Killer (TVM 1995) FILM Thriller, starring Judith Light as a married woman targeted by a jilted younger lover unable to accept their affair is over. With Jack Wagner, Ben Masters and Tracey Gold. Directed by Steven Schachter (T) (44269616)
10.40 Poltergeist: The Legacy Alex traces the history of a decaying building, and is disturbed to discover it harbours an evil presence (r) (T) (6784161)
11.35 Emmanuelle II (1975) FILM Emmanuelle moves to Hong Kong to increase her sexual experience. Sylvia Kristel stars. Directed by Francis Giacobetti (8589364)
12.55am Night Stand (1399117)
1.15 The Chain Reaction (1980) FILM Action thriller centring on a corporate cover-up *of nuclear contamination. Steve Bisley* and Arna-Maria Winchester star. Directed by Ian Barry (5737643)
2.55 Looker (1981) FILM Suspense drama about a plastic surgeon who resolves to find out why a couple of his patients have suddenly died. Albert Finney and James Coburn star. Directed by Michael Crichton (3443391)
4.30 Russell Grant's Postcards Surrey's Thorpe Park (58817198)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Marlene hatches a scheme to raise money (8656579)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9660556)

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PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (88426) **7.30** Chris Evans (61345) **8.30** Grimmy (57451) **9.00** Earthworm Jim (48703) **9.30** Flash Gordon (82535) **10.00** Miracles (69345) **11.00** Guilty! (89109) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (72258) **1.00** Mad About You (87797) **1.30** Jeopardy (85722) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (47635) **3.00** Jenny Jones (87616) **4.00** Guilty! (69451) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (7432) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (1364) **6.30** Friends (2616) **7.00** Simpsons (8161) **7.30** Simpsons (8600) **8.00** Beat the Crusher (17345) **9.00** Really Caught in the Act 5 (37109) **10.00** Cops (83068) **10.30** Cops (45616) **11.00** Friends (90180) **11.30** *Star Trek: Voyager* (46277) **12.30am** Commish (32198) **1.30** Long Play (7322198)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **Boogie Nights (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **In and Out (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Fairytale: A True Story (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Picture Perfect (1997)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Short Attention Span (8117426) **8.00 The Driver (1978)** (9343797) **9.30** Confession (7315432) **10.00 Southern Comfort (1981)** (4788242) **12.00am Bad Taste (1989)** (8193933) **1.30 Ladybird, Ladybird (1994)** (1434198) **3.10 Lilith (1964)** (96697448) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Legend of the Ruby Silver (1996) (22762) **8.00 Casper: A Spirited Beginning (1997)** (36529) ***10.00 Pete's Dragon*** **(1977)** (77594529) **12.10pm Clubhouse Detectives (1996)** (644242) **2.00 Legend of the Ruby Silver (1996)** (12690) **4.00 Casper: A Spirited Beginning (1997)** (7726) **6.00 Kindergarten Cop (1990)** (36426) **8.00 Eraser (1996)** (31971) **10.00 The Rock (1996)** (74220838) **12.15am Thin Line Between Love and Hate (1996)** (210488) **2.05 The Pope Must Die (1991)** (598865) **3.45 Nina Takes a Lover (1993)** (69861117)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.35am Desperate (1947) (5001513) **7.00 Ebirah, Horror of the Deep (1966)** (75906) **9.00 Here Comes the Son (1996)** (41451) **11.00 Jack (1996)** (18345) **1.00pm Ebirah, Horror of the Deep (1966)** (52567) **3.00 Here Comes the Son (1996)** (40093) **5.00 Jack (1996)** (61600) **7.00** P:Review (2659) **7.30** UK Top 10 (4448) **8.00 Steel (1997)** (90010703) **9.45 Spawn (1997)** (843677) **11.25 The Phantom (1996)** (451277) **1.05am Darkman III: Die, Darkman, Die (1995)** (5296136) **2.35 Robocop II (1990)** (461372) **4.30 Steel (1997)** (259933)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Pursuit to Algiers (1945) (4093600) **5.30** Hollywood Hall of Fame: Marlene Dietrich (3123635) **6.00 Every Girl Should Be Married (1948)** (1897529) **8.00 Back to Bataan (1945)** (1892074) **10.00 American Gigolo (1980)** (6966529) **11.55 The Perfect Murder (1988)** (3897513) **1.30am Town on Trial (1956)** (5832488) **3.10** The Directors: John Carpenter (1466488) **4.00 The Two-Headed Spy (1958)** (5535778)

TNT

9.00pm WCW Nitro (88502093) **11.35** WCW Thunder (89282971) **1.15am The Password Is Courage (1962)** (89205846) **3.15 The Safecracker (1958)** (42506020) **6.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

6.30am Futures in Sport **7.00** Sports Centre **7.15** World Wrestling Federation: Superstars **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Football League Review **10.30** Live European Tour Golf. Qatar Masters **1.30pm** Football League Review **2.00** What A Weekend **2.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour **3.00** Spanish Football **5.00** Futbol Mundial **5.30** What a Weekend **6.00** Sports Centre **7.00** European Tour Golf. Qatar Masters **9.00** World Wrestling Federation: Raw **10.00** Sports Centre **11.00** Hold the Back Page **12.00am** Sports Centre **1.00** World Wrestling Federation: Raw **3.00** Hold the Back Page **4.00** Sports Centre **5.00** Trans World Sport

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** What A Weekend **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Spanish Football **11.00** Futbol Mundial **11.30** Survival of the Fittest **12.00pm** Live Snooker: Scottish Open **5.00** World Sport Special **5.30** Moto-Plus **6.00** The Rugby Club **7.00** Live Friday Night Football **10.00** US Golf: Nissan Open **12.00am** The Rugby Club **1.00** Extreme Sailing **1.30** Sports Centre **2.30** Friday Night Football **4.00** European Tour Golf: Qatar Masters

SKY SPORTS 3

11.30am Futures in Sport **12.00pm** Trans World Sport **1.00** Fish TV. Tight Lines **2.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook **3.30** Ice Hockey **6.00** Motorcycling **7.00** Live Snooker: Scottish Open **10.00** Sports Centre **11.00** Motorcycling **12.00am** Close

EUROSPORT

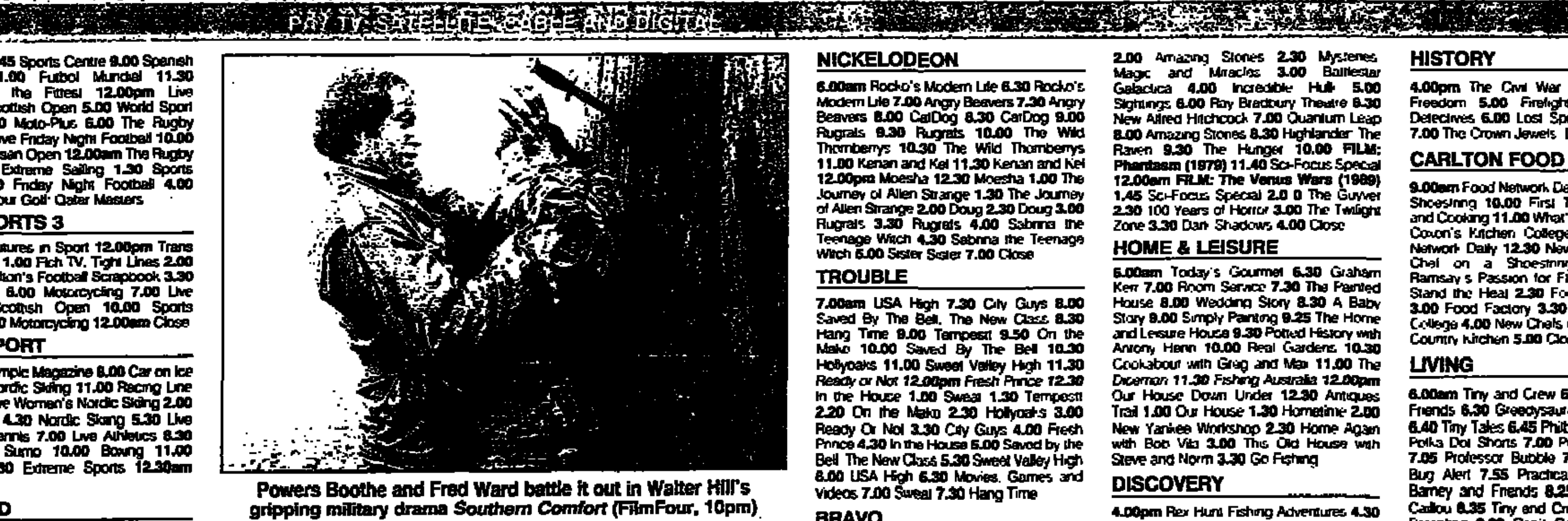
7.30am Olympic Magazine **8.00** Car on Ice **8.30** Live Nordic Skiing **11.00** Racing Line **12.00pm** Live Women's Nordic Skiing **2.00** Live Tennis **4.30** Nordic Skiing **5.30** Live Women's Tennis **7.00** Live Athletics **8.30** Rally **9.00** Sumo **10.00** Boxing **11.00** Playlife **11.30** Extreme Sports **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** The Thin Blue Line **9.40** Harry Enfield and Chums **10.20** Ruby Wax Meets Tom Hanks and Jean Claude Van Damme **11.00** The Bill **11.30** The Bill **12.00am** Doctor Who **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Bowler **7.30** Doctor in the House **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** The Fosters **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs Downstairs **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Pig in the Middle **2.00** Upstairs Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street



Powers Boothe and Fred Ward battle it out in Walter Hill's gripping military drama *Southern Comfort* (FilmFour, 10pm)

9.30 Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Get Back **7.00** Boon **8.00** Blue Heelers **9.00** Love Hurts **10.00** That's Love **10.30** The Screen **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Us and Them **12.30** Gridlock **1.00** The Last Place on Earth **2.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.45** PB and J Otter **7.00** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Hercules: The TV Show **9.00** Art Attack **9.30** Disney's Doug **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Smart Guy **11.00** Crash Zone **11.30** Boy Meets World **12.00pm** Student Bodies **12.30** Dinosaurs **1.00** Amazing Animals **1.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.15** PB and J Otter **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: One Hundred and One Dalmatians (1961)** **8.15** Dinosaurs **9.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.45** Home Improvement **10.15** Mega Movie Magic **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Bureau of Alien Detectors **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.35** Mowgli: New Adventures of Jungle Book **9.00** Goosebumps **9.25** Eerie, Indiana: Other Dimension **9.50** Home to Rent **10.00** Sam and Max **10.25** Mad Jack the Pirate **10.50** *The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs* **11.00** Life with Louie **11.25** C Bear and Jamal **11.50** Mortal Kombat or X-Men **1.55pm** Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Men **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** The Big Half-Term Event **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli: New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.25** Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** EekIStravaganza **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** Angry Beavers **7.30** Angry Beavers **8.00** CatDog **8.30** CatDog **9.00** Rugrats **9.30** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild Thornberrys **10.30** The Wild Thornberrys **11.00** Kenan and Kel **11.30** Kenan and Kel **12.00pm** Moesha **12.30** Moesha **1.00** The Journey of Allen Strange **1.30** The Journey of Allen Strange **2.00** Doug **2.30** Doug **3.00** Rugrats **3.30** Rugrats **4.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **4.30** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **5.00** Sister Sister **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **9.50** On the Mako **10.00** Saved By The Bell **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** *Ready or Not* **12.00pm** Fresh Prince **12.30** In the House **1.00** Sweat **1.30** Tempestt **2.20** On the Mako **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** Fresh Prince **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** USA High **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** Sweat **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** L A P D **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Supervixens (1975)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35** Erotic Series **2.05** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.35** Cops **3.05 FILM: Red Heat (1988)** **5.00** L A P D **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** NewsRadio **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00 FILM: Find the Lady (1976)** **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbot and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Ray Bradbury Theatre **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** Amazing Stories **8.30** Highlander: The Raven **9.30** The Hunger **10.00 FILM: Phantasm (1979)** **11.40** Sci-Focus Special **12.00am FILM: The Venus Wars (1989)** **1.45** Sci-Focus Special **2.00** The Guyver **2.30** 100 Years of Horror **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** Potted History with Antony Henn **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The *Dicemon* **11.30** *Fishing Australia* **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Wheel Nuts **5.30** Treasure Hunters **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Profiles of Nature **7.30** The Elegant Solution **8.00** Outback Adventures **8.30** Uncharted Africa **9.00** Extreme Rides **10.00** Inside the Glasshouse **11.00** Titanic **12.00am** Speed! Crash! Rescue! **1.00** Treasure Hunters **1.30** Wheel Nuts **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm The Blue Beyond **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Deadly Australians **2.00** Wild Rescues **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Deadly Australians **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** *Animal Doctor* **8.30** *Animal X* **9.00** Ocean Wilds **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** The Mating Game **11.00** Vet School **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Firstborn **7.30** A Few Acorns More **8.00** The Shark Files: The Sharks **9.00** Water Wolves **10.00** A Gorilla Family Portrait **11.00** Ivory Pigs **12.00am** Zebra: Patterns in the Grass

HISTORY

4.00pm The Civil War: A New Birth of Freedom **5.00** *Firefighting: The Arson Detectives* **6.00** Lost Spirits of Cambodia **7.00** The Crown Jewels: Divine Glory

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Chef on a Shoestring **10.00** First Taste **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Newman Meets **1.00** Chef on a Shoestring **1.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **2.00** Can't Stand the Heat **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Food Factory **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** New Chefs on the Block **4.30** Country Kitchen **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.30** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Living Issues **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Maury Povich **9.00 FILM: Her Costly Affair (1996)** **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Music Time **6.00** Sony Men Lorry **6.30** Mast Mast Show **7.00** Faith: Muslim **7.30** News **8.00** Zee World **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Adhikar **10.00** Anhoni **11.00** Zaika Ka Safar **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Hindi Movie: Divorce** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Its My Choice **4.00** Akbir Birbal **4.30** Zee Zone **5.30** Amanat **6.00** Artist of the Fortnight **6.30** Zee TV Showcase **7.00** Chasme Baddoor **7.30** Entertainment Express **8.00** News **8.30** Aashirwad **9.30 FILM: Hindi Movie: Akhiyon Ke Jharoke Se** **12.00am** News **12.30** Ru-Ba-Ru **1.00** X-Zone **2.00 FILM: Hindi Movie: Rangeela Raaja**



SWIMMING 46

Hickman lays careful plans to ensure that he stays on top

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 48

Peters has the drive to give Scotland heart at Twickenham



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19 1999

Caretaker manager sweeps into office with pledge to make best of short-term job

Keegan rallies to England cause

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE agony of the short-term, part-time arrangement that the Football Association has come to with the new England caretaker manager became apparent yesterday when anyone who might have forgotten was reminded of just how inspirational the man can be.

Four months of exposure to his character, to his spirit, will merely make the leaving of Kevin Keegan the harder for everyone when he returns to the open arms of Fulham in June, and expose England and their supporters to the misery of paradise lost.

Keegan was good yesterday. In fact, he was brilliant. At his first press conference as the man in charge of the national team, he was so persuasive, so eloquent, so full of energy and excitement for the task of leading England into their next four matches that he all but left his audience in a swoon.

Rivals draw clear..............49
Tribute to O'Neill..............49

After the ham-fistedness of Glenn Hoddle, Keegan made almost hypnotic listening. His dynamism spread across the room at a London hotel, infusing everyone who was there with new optimism about England's chances of qualifying for the 2000 European championship finals in Holland and Belgium. He gave a beguiling vision of his England: an England in which every player would be encouraged to roar the national anthem, an England that would attack at every opportunity, an England with Alan Shearer retained as captain, a recreation of the brief alliance that they forged in Newcastle.

It would be an England, too, in which the critical comments of players such as Frank Leboeuf, who suggest that England have little but bulldog spirit in their armoury, would be pinned to the Wembley dressing-room wall. "I want to ram that sort of stuff down the throats of the people who said it," Keegan said.

For a man acclaimed as the sport's Messiah, he even talked of raising a national hero from the footballing dead when he hinted that he would recall Paul Gascoigne to the England team that will face Poland in Keegan's first and most crucial match in charge, the qualifying tie against Poland at Wembley on March 27.

"I am a fan of Paul," he said. "I think I stand in the same position as every other Englishman in the country with him. I see a tremendous talent with something to offer, someone who will be in my mind — only in my mind at the moment — when I pick the squad to play Poland. It is up to the players to show me what they can do and that includes Paul. The onus is on him."

Keegan was sympathetic, not combative. He said that he understood all the doubts and concerns about his part-time status. His aim, he said, was to leave his successor in such a strong position that he would be inheriting a dream job.

It was all wonderful, mouthwatering stuff, the kind of stirring, motivational pep-talk that not even Terry Venables could match. But the longer he talked, the more obvious the essential contradictions in his position became, the more painful the realisation of his transitory status grew.

The man sitting on the dais in the York Room in the basement of the Metropole Hotel on the Edgware Road is, as the FA has rightly identified, the best man for the job. Yet he is also the man who will depart after three competitive games and who will leave a poisoned chalice for whoever follows him, especially if he wins all his European championship qualifying ties, against Poland, Sweden and Bulgaria.

Even three victories would not assure England of qualifying for the finals and Keegan's successor would then be faced with two tricky matches in September to finish the job. The nation, meanwhile, would quite understandably be grieving for the man that got away.

Keegan proved even with his words and his thoughts yesterday that, his commitments to Fulham notwithstanding, he is eminently equipped to lift the team out of the trough that it has sunk into. That has never been in question. The irony is that for all its preaching, the FA has sacrificed the long term for the short term in the most iniquitous way.

There were elements, for instance, of Keegan and his audience talking at the most basic of cross purposes, of the new England manager forgetting that everyone desperately wants him to succeed and that that desperation will create a belief in him that he has guaranteed he will shatter.

"I have come into this with my eyes wide open," Keegan said. "I know I have got the chance to make the doubters believe again. I have done it before a few times in my life and I hope I will do it a few times more before they put me six feet under."

In that case, at least, Keegan singularly failed to understand that no one is doubting him, that there is no question of anyone not believing, no question of him having to prove anyone wrong. We all know he has got what it takes to succeed — and that is the problem. He said again that it was his loyalty to Fulham that was preventing from taking a job that he would have "jumped at" in other circumstances. It was just that the time was not right.

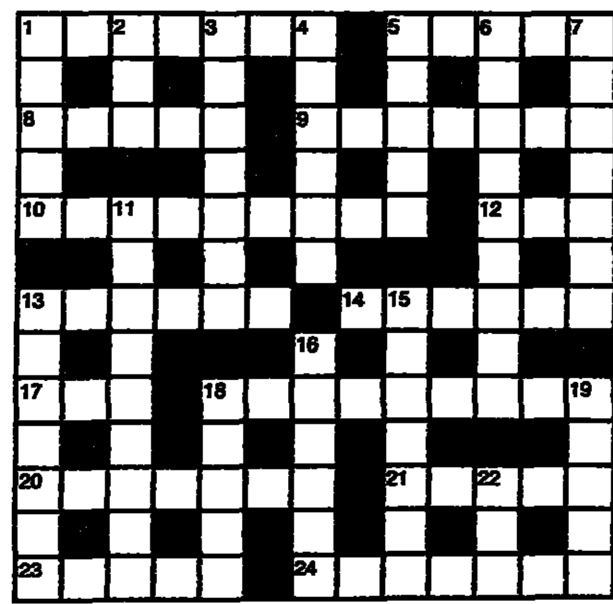
"Please don't say that I am demeaning the England job," he said, "because I am not. I don't think loyalty to Fulham is a weakness. I want to go back there and finish the job. No one is trying to pull the wool over your eyes. This is a compromise, but sometimes this kind of arrangement gives you the freedom to do things that you could not do in other situations.

"I see advantages in all of this and it will give the FA a bit of breathing space. I am already thinking about picking my first squad and walking up the tunnel for that match against Poland. I hope that if I do the job well, maybe it will come around again."

David Davies, the FA's executive director, sat alongside him and rationalised the arrangement by saying that the FA would have a "significantly wider choice of candidates" at the end of the season. By then, though, their first choice was already turning his mind to other matters. "My team for Notts County on Saturday is ..." he said with a smile. He never reached the end of the sentence.

Flanked by Davies, left, and Wilkinson, Keegan prepares to address the media yesterday on his plans for England during his four matches in charge. Photograph: Gill Allen

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1645

ACROSS
1 Groom's helper (4,3)
5 Edible part of animal (5)
8 Spirit Prospero released (5)
9 Mild tease (3-4)
10 Multi-bed room (9)
12 Geol. period (3)
13 Castle wall; type of bridge (6)
14 A reptile: Bill, in *Alice* (6)
17 Small *(Scots.)* (3)
18 Thrown: extrapolated (9)
20 Tread roughly underfoot (7)
21 Decorate (5)
23 Useful: dexterous (5)
24 Conference city, 1945 (7)

DOWN
1 Insipid (5)
2 Do winter sports (3)
3 Uneasy, mildly sick feeling (7)
4 Lancs. town: wrestling hold (6)
5 Old stick-in-the-mud (5)
6 Bouncing with energy (9)
7 Sail-lifting rope (7)
11 Create big fuss (5,4)
13 Put under spell (7)
15 Not accurate (7)
16 Little shepherdess (2-4)
18 Young pet: type of fat (5)
19 Hard-wearing twill (5)
22 Ancient: with 13 *ac*, a court (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1644
ACROSS: 1 Fulmar 5 Stoned 8 Moor 9 Syllable 10 Sprain 12 Gibe 15 Assassination 16 Idle 17 Linger 19 Chequers 21 Flap 22 Ogress 23 Manage
DOWN: 2 Unopposed 3 Mar 4 Rashness 5 Sell 6 Orang-utan 7 Eel 11 Arabesque 13 Boomerang 14 Uncle Sam 18 Less 20 Hug 21 Fin

Wilkinson handed pivotal role in hunt for new king

By Matt Dickinson

THE SEARCH for the next England coach starts this morning and, given that he may prove elusive, it is probably just as well that the Football Association has four months to hunt him down. Where on earth will they find the man who can lead England to greatness?

Ewood Park, the home of Brian Kidd, appears to be a good bet, although there will be plenty of other names cast in the air.

Appropriately enough, it is the son of a coalminer who will put on the torch and helmet to lead the FA's search party. Howard Wilkinson, a little frazzled after his week under the spotlights as caretaker coach, returns to his day job of technical director and his principle task will be the installation of Keegan's successor. It makes him an influential man. That much was apparent in Wilkinson's appearance alongside Keegan on the dais yesterday.

If he cannot be England coach — and there is little doubt that he wanted it — Wilkinson has the next best thing. He is the man who will nominate the England coach. He will also be a significant part of Keegan's backroom team, with his flight already booked to Armenia to watch Poland play before England's critical European championship qualifier on March 27.

Wilkinson will work alongside Derek Fazackerley, the former Newcastle United and Blackburn Rovers coach, who will lead the Bisham Abbey training sessions, and Arthur Cox, the Fulham scout, who will now travel the country with two hats on.

John Gorman, the former assistant to Glenn Hoddle, will be leaving the FA, while Ray Clemence, the goalkeeping coach, and Peter Taylor, the England Under-21 manager, are staying put.

"It would be stupid and irresponsible for me to leave Howard on the outside," Keegan said, and they appeared to be pulling in the right direction. "Kevin and I have a lot in common," Wilkinson said. "Both our fathers were miners and where we have got is characterised by hard work. Kevin will select the squad, pick the team, choose how they play. Everything outside that, where possible, will be provided by myself and the organisation that backs me."

It is as the kingmaker, though, that Wilkinson will be forging his most important job yet at the FA, filling the role that Jimmy Armfield had when he canvassed football's great and good before successfully nominating Terry Venables as England coach. Now it is Wilkinson who will be at training grounds making discrete inquiries to take before the FA's international sub-committee.

It is a safe bet that he will be talking to Alex Ferguson to see whether a Manchester United triumph in the European Cup will make him ready to take on the England job. He will take the opportunity to ask Ferguson about Brian Kidd's credentials for the post. And he will almost certainly journey up to Blackburn Rovers to ask Kidd himself whether he is ready, just as he will sound out the likes of Bryan Robson, David Platt and Roy Hodgson.

The FA are confident that the search will become easier rather than harder as managers reach the end of the season and Wilkinson is confident that mistakes will not be repeated. "We will do as much as possible to avoid this situation happening again," he said. "I will not be on my bike here, there and everywhere, but we will make sure we have a reasonable idea who has the ability and who wants to do the job. Hopefully, we will also have made changes so that more people want it."

Keegan included, perhaps. Adamant as he was yesterday that he would return to Fulham full-time in the summer, four days is a long time in football. And he has four months to change his mind.

THE NAMES IN THE FRAME FOR THE HOT SEAT

KEVIN KEEGAN: Fulham once advertised for "a manager/genius," and Lancaster Gate will know the feeling. Those who know him best all suggest that he will stick to his guns. Come June, he will walk.

ROY HODGSON: Once regarded as a shoe-in to replace Glenn Hoddle, but Hodgson's reputation has been tarnished thanks to the unhappy end to his spell with Blackburn Rovers. Has managed Switzerland and Internazionale and is seeking employment.

BOBBY ROBSON: Said "not goodbye, but farewell", when leaving the England job in 1990. History has been kind to his eight-year tenure, which encompassed a World Cup semi-final. Is due to leave PSV Eindhoven this summer, but why would he want it?

HOWARD WILKINSON: Not the most glorious of caretakers, even if France hardly provided the most benevolent opposition. After being snubbed for Keegan, his desire to replace him must have been dashed. Crucially, his philosophy that "sport is not entertainment" has won him few friends in the media.



Kidd: impressive pedigree

TERRY VENABLES: Commands the players' respect and has supporters among journalists. Was a penalty or two away from the final of Euro 96, but his business dealings alarmed the FA's kingmakers.

DAVID PLATT: A distinguished international career and keen to move into full-time management. Did not uproot any trees at Sampdoria under trying circumstances, but could be groomed for leadership under a more senior figure.

BRYAN ROBSON: Combined his managerial duties at Middlesbrough with a coaching position under Venables, but despite hinting that he would like the job, he has, at least temporarily, ruled himself out. Recently signed a new five-year contract and appears to have enough troubles on Teesside.

JOHN GREGORY: A sharp learning curve since leaving Wycombe Wanderers 12 months ago. He has had to deal with disparate personalities, such as Savo Milosevic, Stan Collymore and Doug Ellis. Villa's recent slump and a tendency to speak as he finds would count against him.

BRIAN KIDD: Nicknamed "The Legend" at Old Trafford, Kidd can boast an impressive CV that includes two England caps as well as playing and coaching for Manchester United. Blackburn have lost only once since he replaced Hodgson, but has still to establish a public profile.

GEORGE CAULKIN

TOMORROW — THE BEST COLUMNISTS

- Michael Lynagh on English prospects for the Five Nations Championship
- Football Saturday with Gary Neville, Lynne Truss and Oliver Holt